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SO NEAR-SO FAR.

BY JOHN GOSSIP.

I sung a song when summer days were waning. A song of unrequited love complaining, And this it was the winds taught me to say: 'Oh, Florestinel so near to-day—to-morrow so far, far away!"

While thus my sorrow I sat voicing; Young hearts around seemed all rejoicing; Sung I unto my own, which once was gay: 'Oh, Florestine! so near to-day—to-morrow so far, far away!"

I sung it when my love was near,
Yet sung so low she could not hear;
Nor ever heard, till parting, I did say:
Oh, Florestine! so near to-day—to-morrow so
far, far away!" s then she caught the burden's meaning,

nd then knew she my heart was weaning; or I had loved, and she—ah! nay; n, Florestine! so near to-day—to-morrow so far, far away!"

This ye may learn from my refrain,
That one may love and love in vain,
And at the end he can but say:
"Oh, sweetest love! so near to-day—to-morrow
so far, far away!"

FERGUS FEARNAUGHT:

New York Boys.

A STORY OF THE BY-WAYS AND THOROUGHFARES. BY GEORGE L. AIKEN,

AUTHOR OF "FALSE FACES," "ROLL, THE RECKLESS," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER IV. RAGGED TERRY.

FERGUS remained on the curbstone watching the car until it disappeared in the distance.

"He's a splendid fellow!" he murmured to himself. "His father must be awful rich. It's a nice thing to have a rich father; but I'll never have one now. I wonder who I belong

to, anyway?" This was a thought that had occurred to Fergus' mind very frequently of late. He had not reflected much about it when he first ran away from the almshouse to escape the petty tyranny exercised over him there, but as he grew in years and his struggle with the world became lighter and less exacting, he found himself cogitating over this subject at odd

This encounter with Clinton Stuyvesant brought the matter up The poor, friendless boy, who had been kicked and cuffed and scoffed at by the world ever since he could remember, could but reflect that it would be a better condition in life to have a rich father and a comfortable home.

"Perhaps I've got a father somewhere—who knows?" Fergus asked himself, following up this train of reflection. "Or a mother?" He shook his head doubtfully here,

'Pears to me if a mother had a nice, likely boy, like I am, she wouldn't go back on him. Pears to me she wouldn't send him to the poorhouse, where they half starve a fellow, and beat him if he grumbles about it. I get big enough I'll go back and whale that

Fergus doubled up his fist in a very decided manner as he uttered this bovish threat. But this revengeful feeling speedily passed away, and his thoughts went back to the subject of his parents again.

must belong to somebody," he mused, "as Clint Stuyvesant said—smart chap, Clint; no starched-up frills about him—and I'd like to find out who. Fleda says my father must have been a gentleman, and she's awful smart at guessing things. What she don't know ain't worth knowing. It would be kind of nice now to find a rich father; not but what I can do well enough for myself, but I'd like to be a young gentleman like Clint, and be some body of consequence when I got to be a man; alderman of the Fourth Ward, or coroner, or

deputy sheriff, or something of that sort. It must be confessed that Fergus' aspirations were not of a very high order at this period of his life.

He had begun to move slowly up the Bow ery, dodging the hurrying throng as he made these reflections, when he saw a pocket handkerchief lying on the sidewalk before him. He

stooped quickly and picked it up.

Looking ahead of him he espied a welldressed lady, and thinking that she had drop-

ped the handkerchief he ran after her. Just as he broke into this run a cry of "Stop thief!" was uttered behind him. Fergus, in his anxiety to overtake the lady and restore

her property to her did not heed this cry. The surging crowd swept around him and hid her from his view. As he darted in and out in his efforts to overtake the lady, the cry was repeated and taken up by several voices, "Stop thief! Stop thief! Stop thief!"

Fergus was very naturally mistaken for the thief, and several hands were thrust forth to catch him, but he glided away from them with the suppleness of an eel; he was not long in

recognizing the situation. By Jinks!" he muttered to himself, "they think I've stole the handkerchief, and they are after me. This will never do. Let her whis tle for her handkerchief. She'll think I picked her pocket, just as like as not. Nobody be-lieves poor people can be honest."

He thrust the handkerchief hurriedly into his pocket, stopped and joined in the hue and cry, bawling as lustily as any of them: "Stop



"If you says I cheats--come and see me, Cully!" cried the ragged manikin, shrilly.

Then, singling out a stout, stolid-faced Dutchman in the crowd, he shouted:
"There he is—that's him! Stop him!"

The Dutchman was instantly seized by the over zealous mob, and during the altercation that ensued, Fergus quietly walked away, turned into Bond street, and directed his pro-

gress toward Broadway. "They can jug the Dutchman, if they want they can't catch me_I'm too wide awake for them! I'll take the handkerchief home and give it to Fleda. What's the use of a poor cove trying to be honest when everybody takes

him for a thief?" Having come to this conclusion, Fergus paused on the corner of Broadway, and leaning against the lamp-post, gazed at the stream of vehicles which rolled continuously down that busy thoroughfare.

Suddenly a scream burst from the open window of a private carriage, and Fergus, attracted by the sound, saw a woman's head thrust from the window, and her right arm was held toward him, the hand gesticulating in an agitated manner, and he heard her cry out:

"That is he—the boy—there!"

He could not mistake her action; she meant him, beyond a doubt. He cast one wild, startled glance at her, and muttering: "By Jinks! I'm in for it again!" turned and fled precipitately.

"Oh! stop—stop!" came after him, in an agonized cry, but Fergus only redoubled his

The block between Broadway and the Bowery is but a short one, and before the driver could stop his horses and turn the carriage around into Bond street, the fleet-footed boy had disappeared.

Fergus was too familiar with the turns and windings of New York to be easily overtaken, and he knew that the moment he mingled with the ever moving throng upon the Bowery he was safe; so he dashed along at all speed until he reached the corner, turned into the

Bowery, and subsided into a walk. Phew!" he puffed, drawing a long breath. 'Who put up that job on me, I wonder? That couldn't have been the woman that lost the handkerchief-she belonged over here, and the other was a Broadway big bug, and a real nobby one, too, riding in her own carriage, with a driver in livery—and such a handsome face. Oh, by Jinks! if the angels are any prettier than she is they must look stunning!

But what did she want with me?" Fergus pondered over this in a bewildered His brain was clear and acute, his bitway. ter experience with the world had made it so, but this adventure puzzled him exceedingly.

It was utterly impossible that this woman in the carriage could have been the one who had dropped the handkerchief. A lady of her appearance would never have been walking in such a locality, or even admitting that some chance may have taken her there, she could not have een there at the time he had found the hand kerchief, for when he saw the carriage it was rolling down Broadway, going south, and he had stood fully ten minutes upon the corner before it came along. Besides, if it was really the woman who had lost the handkerchief, how could she possibly know that he had found it?

This question, which he mentally put to himself, puzzled Fergus' brain excessively. He could not answer it; he could not understand the action of the lady at all.

He remembered, cogitating in a bewildered manner over the affair, that he had been at-tracted by the carriage, which was an unusu-ally handsome one, drawn by a span of creamcolored horses, splendid looking animals—and the boy had a keen eye for a good horse, and was critical in its "fine points," having picked up the knowledge some way—and the harness was resplendent with silver trimmings, and on the side of his hat that gave him quite a

smart look. From the horses and the driver Fergus' eyes had wandered naturally to the occupant of the carriage—a lady richly attired, in the prime of her fair womanhood. Her face attracted him with a kind of magnetism which he could not comprehend. His muttered words as he fled had told us the strange impression that her features made upon his mind: and it was while he was gazing at this face, in a dreamy kind of a way, and wondering what made his blood thrill so strangely in his veins at the sight of it, that her eyes fell upon him: then she evinced that singular agitation, starting from her seat, thrusting her head through the open window of the carriage, pointing him out and exclaiming vehemently

'That is he-the bov-there! Sauntering along, with his hands thrust deeply into his trowsers pockets, Fergus pon dered over the matter.

"It just beats all!" he told himself. "I never did nothing to her-I know I never did; then what did she want to have me caught Guess she must have mistook me somebody else. Lord, yes-that's it-what a ninny I was never to have thought of that be-

Fergus felt quite a relief of mind when he ame to this conclusion; it was such a simple solution of the perplexing incident; and have ing thus settled it to his own satisfaction he raightway dismissed it from his mind.

His reflections upon this subject had preoccupied his mind that he had reached the orner of Grand and Baxter streets almost un consciously, but the turnings that led to his present home were so familiar to him that his feet took that direction almost of their own

volition. Clustered on the sidewalk in front of the dingy brick house, where he had found a shel-ter, and which was let in different apartments, like all the dwellings in the street, so that every house was a hive of humanity, was a group of noisy, ragged boys, engaged in a game of "marbles;" and the noisiest and ragredest of them all was a diminutive youngster, who could not have been over ten years of age, though his face was as sharp and shrewd looking as that of a man of forty. Indeed, he looked like one of those "changeling" children that we read of in Irish le gends, where the body is that of an infant,

ut the face is that of a man. No scarecrow in a farmer's field ever had more rags fluttering in the breeze than did this youngster. Looking at them you wondered how he ever got them on him, and having got them on, how he contrived to keep

His principal garment was a coat, "a thing of shreds and patches." The collar reached above his ears, and the skirts reached down to his heels. The dexterity with which he could livest himself of this outer garment, and the facility with which he could assume it again, were feats that confused the mind of the be holder like the tricks of a skilled conjuror.

"There's Ragged Terry," commented Fergus, as he beheld the group. "He and his gang are playing marbles on our sidewalk again. Fleda will be after them presently."

Fergus chuckled to himself, paused, and watched the game. Presently a squabble arose among the boys, no uncommon occurrence even among better dressed boys than they were, and Ragged Terry was accused of nantly, whipped off his ragged coat, shedding his feet with surprising quickness, and and the most revealing a ragged waistcoat, dirty and dilapidated shirt-sleeves that the imagination can conceive, and offered to fight his accuser, throwing himself into a boxing attitude in a most ferociously ludicrous man-

"If you says I cheats—come and see me, Cully!" cried the ragged manikin, shrilly. But this invitation proved too beligerent for the other boy, though he was twice the size of Terry, and he admitted that he might have been mistaken, though his manner indi cated that he did not think so, but that Ter-

ry's appeal to arms had forced him, to use a

boyish phrase, "to back down."
"I thought you'd think better of it," said the triumphant Terry, and he prepared to resume his coat.

Watch him now as he picks it up from the sidewalk. There are as many holes in it as How can he possibly get his arms into the sleeves? How can he tell where the arm-holes are among all those gaping Look, he gives it a shake, makes a dive at it with his little head, the skirts describe a kind of somersault over his shoulders, his body writhes for a moment, and the skirts hang dangling at his heels. It is on. Ragged Terry is himself again.

The game is resumed, and more noisily than before; there is a perfect babble of oaths, shouts, and cries. Then a window in the third story is gently opened, and a small, curly black head is cautiously protruded. A pair of bright, black eyes survey the noisy group below, and then a tin kettle, of three quart capacity, is reached forth and turned upside and the head and kettle disappear quickly within the window.

Swish-swash! down comes the water in a deluge on the boys. Just at that moment their heads were all together, for Ragged Terry was "knuckling down" for a shot and a strong suspicion that he will cheat pervades his chums, for Terry's propensity is wellknown to them, and none escape the extemporized shower-bath.

They hastily gather up their marbles and scamper over to the other sidewalk, where they cluster together, shake the drops from them, wondering where they came from, and swearing like pirates—and pirates and robbers they will undoubtedly grow up to be, and the trial of one of them, for the inevitable crime he must commit, will cost New York more than to take the whole of them, just as they are now, and educate them in some reform school, That's Fleda, and she has ducked them,'

Ragged Terry was about to take off his coat and defy some one to fight, but he desisted

when he saw Fergus.

"Sides, Cullies!" he said. "There's bully Ferge, the Fearnaught."

CHAPTER V.

no business here—and you have been told so often enough."

"You be blowed!" cried Terry, defiantly. 'You don't own the street." Terry, however, was careful to keep at a safe distance while he made this remark, watching Fergus keenly with his twinkling eyes, which were as sharp and as bright as

those of a mouse. Fergus made a feint to cross the street.
"Mizzle!" cried Terry, warningly. "He's
a-comin' fur us!"

And the ragged crowd scuttled rapidly away, following the lead of Terry.

Fergus laughed as the boys scampered

away, and then turned and entered the house. In the hall he met a girl holding a tin pail in her hand. She had just come down stairs.

"Hallo! Ferge!" she called out to him, in a shrill, clear voice. "Just come?"

"Did you see what I did?"

"Oh, yes."
"Didn't I duck 'em good!"
"You just did."

The girl broke into a merry laugh, the mirth coming as spontaneously from her lips as song from the throat of a bird.

"I knew I could make them scatter, and a little water won't hurt any of them," she said. "I guess if that little ragamuffin Terry once had his face washed, good and clean, his own mother wouldn't know him—that is, if he has a mother," she added, with a reflective shake of the head.

"Hasn't he got a mother?" inquired Fergus,

with sudden interest. "Guess not-any way, I never heard of

any."
She opened the door that led into the apartment on the ground floor, stepping down a step to enter it, and Fergus followed her,

This apartment was the principal and largest one of the three occupied by Mrs. Nandrus, the girl's mother, who had taken Fergus to board. It was very scantily furnished, but was kept scrupulously clean, and it combined the offices of sitting-room and bed-chamber, for there was a bed in the further corner of the room, covered by a milk-white spread. Indeed, a general air of tidiness pervaded the

room. Though the carpet was of the commonest ingrain, not a speck of dirt could be detected upon its surface, and the little chintz sofa, and the table and chairs were free from dust.

The room, however, was not very cheerful, despite the care devoted to it. The floor was considerably below the level of the sidewalk. The two windows opened upon a little area two feet below the sidewalk and separated from it by an iron picket fence

This gave the room a kind of dungeon look, gloomy and oppressive, until one became accustomed to it. Looking out to the street from the windows through the bars of the iron fence was like gazing through the barred window of a prison cell. But Fergus had been too thankful for the shelter he had found there in his hour of need to take any thought of its gloomy aspect.

Besides this girl had brightened up the place to his view wonderfully. She was as merry as a cricket, and as mercurial in her actions as a butterfly. It was she that had taken Fergus in, pleased at the sight of his fearless, handsome face, and persuaded her mother to give him accommodation. She made a brother of him right away, and

she assumed the position and mentorship of an elder sister despite the fact that she was five years younger than he. And she was small for her age, for though

she was twelve she was not much larger than most girls are at eight. She was decidedly of the elfinish order, more than the mortal. girlish sprite, with a strong effusion of quicksilver in her blood.

Though small, her frame was plump and well-proportioned, and her movements evinced a kind of airy, fairy grace and quickness more easily appreciated when seen than to be de-Her complexion was quite dark, but clear in its olive hue, with a ruddy blush on either round cheek which gave them a resemblance to plump red apples; she had a small mouth, garnished with little sharp white teeth that glistened like pearls in a ruby setting, whenever she laughed, and, as she was very much in the habit of doing so, these teeth formed a very conspicuous feature of her face.

Her eyes were small, as black as jet, with a diamond spark in the pupils, and her hair was also black, and curled in clustering ringlets over her bullet-shaped head.

It is not to be wondered at that Fergus had taken a great liking to this lightsome creature. The boy's experience of the world had been a bitter one. In the dark hour of his sorely-troubled life he had found his first friend in

Finding her in Mulberry street annoyed by three rude boys, he had, with the natural chivalry of his nature, constituted himself her champion. His interference was regarded with derision by the young rowdies, but when one was tripped up and sent sprawling, and another got a black eye, and the third a bloody nose, like Tom, the piper's son, they howling down the street," fully convinced that they had caught a Tartar.

In this way Fergus made the acquaintance of Fleda. He walked home with her-it was a home, despite its poverty, as Fergus found She questioned him conto his satisfaction. cerning himself with more than her usual cu-A SPRIGHTLY GIRL.
"BE off!" exclaimed Fergus. "You have in Fleda Nandrus' composition. You'll take the handkerchief?'

of them for twenty cents apiece.

"I suppose I may as well," answered Fleda, receiving the gift, and examining it critically. "Well, it isn't such a great affair,

after all," she continued, and her nose gave

that peculiar cant upward that was so expres sive with her. "You could buy any quantity

them marked for that hanging out in the Bowery and Grand street."
"Then it couldn't have belonged to her,"

lingered in her mind.

cried Fergus, quickly.

first, however-shy and suspicious even of her. He told her his name was Fergus. "Fergus what?" she questioned. He did not know; up country, where he came from, he had been called Fergus, but nothing else. Fleda considered this very strange, and so did Fergus then, though he had given it very little thought before

"You ought to have another name," she d him. "Everybody has two names." "I suppose so," answered Fergus, indiffer-

'If you don't know what your right name is, why don't you call yourself something else?" she suggested.

"Would you?"
"I would," she replied, decidedly. Even in this first meeting she exerted an influence over his mind. The interest she took in him was a pleasant novelty to the friendless

waif; no wonder he paid heed to any suggestion coming from her lips. "I don't know what name to take," he said, after some deliberation.

"No; do you?" Thus appealed to, Fleda set her wits at work, and they were very sharp ones, as will be demonstrated as we go on in the narration of the story before us.

"I'd have a nice name while I was about it," e said. "My first name is nice, but my last she said. name is just awful."

"Is it? What is your name?"
"Fleda Nandrus."

"Fleda? That's a funny name. Why did they call you Fleda?"

Because I was as lively as a flea when I was a little thing, I suppose," answered Flede, with gravity; "leastways, mother says so,"
"I think it's a good name."
"So do I; and the last name don't matter

much, because I can change that one of these days, you know."
"Change it?" inquired Fergus, in some sur-

"Of course," replied Fleda, complacently.

"How so? "When I get married," answered Fleda, de-

murely. "Oh!" ejaculated Fergus. "I never thought

"But you must select a good name, because you can't change it," she continued. "Let me see, what shall it be?" she added, reflectively. "I'll take any name you've a mind to pick out," said Fergus, rather pleased to be spared the trouble of choosing for himself. "You're awful brave!" cried Fleda, "and

you ought to have some name that would tell people so-something that would sound nice. They called me a young 'dare devil' at

the almshouse. How would that do?"
Fleda gave a little scream of dismay. "Dare devil! Good Lord, no!" she cried.
"That would never do. You are not afraid

of anything, are you?' Fergus gave his head a proud toss that floated his flaxen hair, something after the fashion

of a lion throwing back his mane.
"Not much!" he answered. "I don't scare
worth a cent. I stopped a runaway horse the other day, and the gentleman that owned him gave me a dollar, and told me I was a 'fearnaught,' whatever that is."

Fleda clapped her hands delightedly toge-

· That's it!" she exclaimed. "What's it?" inquired Fergus, in bewilder-

ment. "The name!"

" Eh?" "Fergus Fearnaught!"

"Who's he?" "You. Oh, isn't it just splendid?"

And so she gave him his name—a name that he was destined to bear through long years of varied adventures and experiences such as fall to the lot of few mortals.

It is well that the "Book of Fate"—as it is

called—can never be perused by human eyes, charlatans and fortune-tellers to the contrary for few men would have the fortitude, knowmust undergo before they reach that haven of rest, the grave, to go on with life.

"And what a g

'You don't think Ragged Terry has a mo ther?" asked Fergus, following up their theme of conversation as he and Fleda entered the room.

'I never heard of his having any," she re plied. "He's a good deal like me, then."

Fleda tossed back her tangled curls and sniffed the air contemptuously with her smal but well-shaped nose.

"Like you?" she cried. "Not a bit of it. Why you're a king to him! He's nothing but a snip

"He's a cute little cuss, though," returned Fergus. "You ought to see him begging in the Bowery, as I have. I tell you what, he's smart at it. That ragged coat of his just brings the pennies fast."

"I have no doubt of it; but what good do they do him? Why don't he save 'em, and buy himself a new coat?" "He wouldn't get so many pennies in a new coat," answered Fergus, shrewdly. "He looks

so ragged that people take pity on him. He's up to the dodge. "He's up to all sorts of mischief, I know,

but I'll stop his coming here, and howling in front of my windows, if I have to duck him every day in the week. That was a cute dodge of yours, Fleda,

returned Fergus, laughing over the recollection of it. "They couldn't tell where the water came from.' 'I'll warm it for 'em, and give it to 'em hot

the next time!" cried Fleda. Her animosity against the boys appeared to be very strong.

"Oh! I wouldn't do that," remonstrated ergus. "I wouldn't scald the poor cusses." Fergus. 'I'm sure they deserve it!"

"P'r'aps they do; but that would make 'em mad, and they'd throw stones and break all your windows Fleda felt the force of this remark; such a

retaliation would be unpleasant.

"P'r'aps they might," she admitted. "But they are a dreadful nuisance. Oh! I do wish that we could move away from this neighbor-

hood! There's nothing but beggars and thieves around here. "But there's none in this house!" cried Fer

Fleda's black eyebrows were arched in a

very expressive manner.
"Oh! isn't there?" she rejoined. "Don't you be too sure of that! What's that tall man, who lives on the upper floor, who's out all night, and home all day-John Jackson they say his name is, but who knows whether tell you.' it is or not? Who knows anything about him, or what he does, anyway?"

"Why, you don't mean to say that he is-Fleda clapped her hand quickly over Fer-

"Hush" she cried, warningly. "He might be going through the hall and overhear us talk-cally."

"Besides, finding's having, you know."
"Well, yes, I suppose it is," Fleda admitted, slowly, as if some little doubt upon the subject She found him very non-communicative at | ing about him, and come in here to-night, when we are asleep, and wring both our necks

"I would like to see him try it!" exclaimed

Fergus, defiantly.
"Would you? Well, I wouldn't! You're brave enough, I know, but he's a big man, and you're only a boy. I got a glimpse at his face one evening as he was going out, and he looked as savage as a meat-ax. You'd better keep out of his way, I tell you. Why, he'd think no more of twisting your head off than if you

were a poor, innocent chicken."
"He'll find me a tough chicken, if he troubles me!" cried Fergus, stoutly. "I ain't afraid of any man's black looks. But, never mind him; he won't trouble us if we don't trouble him. Where's your mother?"

'This is one of her days out, and she hasn't got home yet. You didn't come home for any dinner. Where have you been all day?"

"Down by Cortlandt ferry." "Did you get any jobs?" inquired Fleda, with

interest. "Yes, two."

"How much did you earn?" "Fifty cents."

"Oh, my! but you have been lucky to-day!"

she exclaimed, delightedly.
"I just have. I carried a valise for a gentleman up to French's Hotel, and he gave me a sandwich he got coming on the train and didn't eat, and that made my dinner; and when I got to the hotel there was a gent just ready to go to the ferry, and he had a carpetbag he wanted carried, and so I cut it both ways-got a quarter from each. So I let the boys black my boots, just to show how flush I

"Lord, what extravagance! Your pride will be the ruin of you yet, Fergus.' She shook the forefinger of her right hand at him, reprovingly.

> CHAPTER VI. FLEDA'S BRIGHT IDEA.

FERGUS laughed at Fleda's reproof.

"Guess not," he returned, lightly. "I like to spread myself a little when I get a chance. What's the use of being a fellow unless you are some of a fellow? Ah, wouldn't I like to be as well off as Clint Stuyvesant! He's the boy that can put on the frills, and starch 'em

up to the nines, too!"
Fleda opened her bright black eyes widely

at this eulogistic speech.
"Clint Stuyvesant!" she cried. "Why,
who's he? I never heard you speak of him before."

Fergus laughed again. The perplexed look on the little maiden's face pleased him highly. "Guess not, for I never saw him until to-day," he answered. "It was a regular muss he and I had with one of those maccaroni chaps—padrones they call 'em—that send the little Eyetalian boys out to fiddle in the streets. Why, how was that?"

This question led Fergus to explain how he had made the acquaintance of that scion of the Knickerbockers who bore the sounding and time-honored names of Clinton De Witt Stuyvesant.

Fleda shook her young head gravely as she listened to Fergus' account of his adventure. It did not appear so funny to her as it did to

"You'll get killed yet, Fergus, see if you don't!" she exclaimed.

"Not a bit of it. What's the use of living if you don't have some sport?' he returned.

Then he broke into a song, which was popular among the boys, singing a snatch of it with surprising sweetness and melody:

"So let the wide world wag as it will, I'll be gay and happy still; Gay and happy—gay and happy— I'll be gay and happy still!"

Fleda found this gayety infectious, and joined in the chorus with a will. Then they in-dulged in a little dance together, until Fleda got tired and sunk breathlessly into the old rocking-chair.
"Oh! what a boy you are, Fergus!" she

And what a girl you are!" he returned.

"Then there's a pair of us!"
"And we ought to make something out of

this 'wide world,' as the song says." feet with animation. "I have been thinking of it for some time." "We will," she answered, springing to her

"You have?" questioned Fergus, with inter-"What is it?"

"I'll tell you. Idon't want to have to earn my living the way mother does—it's awful nard to do washing—you know how tired she is when she comes home after a day's wash

"Yes; and I've often wished I could help

her in some way; but a young fellow like me can't do much, you know." "I think we could do something-you and I together, Fergus." "What?"

"How much money have you got left?"
"Forty cents. Here it is." He thrust his hand into his pocket. "Oh, by jinks! I had forgot all about that. See here, Fleda, I've

got a present for you." He drew forth the handkerchief and exhibited it to her as he spoke.

She looked at it in a very suspicious man "Oh, my! what a nice handkerchief!" she "But, oh, Fergus, I hope you did-

exclaimed. n't steal it!" Fergus' face became crimson at the ques-

tion. "Steal it!" he cried. "Did you ever know me to steal anything yet?" "No, I never did; and I hope you never

will! "Guess not. I found it." Fleda breathed a sigh of relief.

Found it?" she said. "Yes, in the Bowery; I thought I saw the lady who dropped it, and when I ran after her, to give it to her, somebody behind me sung out 'Stop thief,' and I had to cut my lucky. I knew they'd take me for a thief. anyhow, if they caught me, and so I dusted out of the crowd, lively. They don't give a poor chap a show if anything bad is brought

against him." But couldn't you find the lady, after-

ward? "No; they kicked up such a rumpus around me that I lost sight of her. And I felt a little mad, too, to think they should take me for a thief, when I've always tried to be honest; and when I've been half-starved, many and many a time, I've found it pretty hard to keep my hands off other people's property, I can

"Yes, I know; it's awful trying. But I wish you had found the lady.

"So I would if they had let me alone. I wasn't going to be took up for a thief when I knew I wasn't one.' "Of course not," said Fleda, sympatheti-

"Her—the lady?" "Not that lady—but another one."
"What lady?" "Such a beautiful one! oh, by Jinks! I tell

you, she was just prime—elegant—immense! Riding in her own carriage, with a driver in a livery. One of the big bugs—something like Clint Stuyvesant's mother, I guess." Fleda stared at him, surprisedly.

"What in the world are you talking about?" she cried. "The lady in her carriage, on Broadway."

"What about her?" Fergus described the incident to her.

"I'm sure it wasn't-it couldn't have been no way," he replied, decidedly. "Then why did she shout at you?"

"That's what gets away with me. I can't understand it at all." "It gets away with me, too, for I can't understand it, either. 'Pears to me that you have had a pretty lively day of it."

"I just have. Now tell me why you want ed to know how much money I had?" "Wait until I start the fire and put the teakettle on. Mother will be home in about an hour, now, and I must have supper ready for

her by the time she comes." "All right," cried Fergus, and then he began to sing:

"Polly put the kettle on, Polly put the kettle on, And we'll all take tea!" Fleda, kneeling before the little square stove and arranging her kindlings, looked up admir-

and arranging her kindnings, looked up admiringly at the boy.

"Oh, my, Fergus! but you do just sing splendid! Where did you learn?"

Fergus laughed gleefully. "I never learnt anywhere," he answered. It just comes to me naturally, as it does to

the birds. Why, you can sing as well as I can, and how did you learn?"

"Mother learned me when I was a baby; leastways I picked it up from hearing her.'

Fergus' sunny face clouded. "I never had any mother to sing to me," he said. "You can't remember your mother?"

"No," answered Fergus, with a reflective shake of the head. "'Pears to me that I never had any.' "Oh, nonsense!" cried Fleda, laughingly. "That couldn't be so, you know. There, the fire's going; now wait till I fill the tea-kettle

and then I'll tell you my idea." "Is it a bright one?" "It's been rubbing in my head long enough to make it bright!" rejoined Fleda.

Having got her household duties in proper trim, Fleda assumed a gravity befitting the importance of her subject, and thus began:
"You'd never guess, if you was to keep on for ever so long, what I have been thinking about lately."

"I suppose not; so fire away and tell us what it is." "I have been thinking that I would like to do something to earn my own living."

"Show! 'pears to me that you do enough. Why, don't you do all the housework while your mother goes out to wash?"
"Of course I do that, but Lord! how long

does that take? I have lots of time besides. I want to do something that will bring in the money.'

"Yes, that's what we are all after. Every fellow is on the make—I am myself." 'But some days you don't make anything.' "That's so."

You depend on what odd jobs you can pick up; now, wouldn't it be much better if ou had a regular business?" Fergus opened his eyes at this. "A regular business!" he cried.

kind of a regular business?" A peanut stand," answered Fleda, with the air of one achieving a triumph "A peanut stand?" echoed Fergus

"Yes; I've heard mother say that lots of old women get their living that way," continued Fleda, with enthusiasm. Fergus did not share in this enthusiasm.

"There's lots of 'em, I know," he said, down the Bowery and around the City Hall, out I don't know how much they make "But they must make something or they vouldn't keep at it," urged Fleda.

Fergus felt the force of this argument. "That's so," he admitted. Fleda was encouraged by this admission.

"Don't you think it is a good idea?" she sked. "It might be," he replied, a little dubiously.

Where could you start it?"
"On the corner of Grand street, on this side of the way. I've had my eye on that corner for some time," rejoined Fleda, vivaciously. I can take that old table in the corner there, mother can spare it, and the chair without a back, that I do my washing on. I can start

small in the first place, you know. "I'm afraid you'll have to—forty cents won't go far in laying in a stock. Don't you intend to sell anything but peanuts?"

"Oh, yes, candy, cakes and apples!" Fergus shook his head discouragingly 'You can't do it on forty cents, Fleda," he said "Can't I?" she cried, disappointedly.

"I'm afraid not. Guess you'll have to wait ntil I make another raise. 'Pears to me you until I make another raise. ught to have a dollar at least to begin on. 'Do you think so?" "I do; it's no use beginning unless you can

make something of a splurge at the start. Fleda's bright face assumed a blank look. I suppose not," she said, slowly; like to try-'pears to me I would do well.' Fergus nodded his head in confirmation of

"You're smart enough to do well at almost anything," he replied, "and I'm bound to stake you just as soon as I can raise the wind."
"I know you will," she rejoined, hopefully. He was silent for a moment, and then he

asked: "Couldn't you get some money from your "No, Fergus," she answered, quickly; "and what's more, I don't want to. I wouldn't ask

her for the world. No, I want to do it without her help-it must be done by you and I alone, Fergus, or not at all." "All right! then we'll do it. I'll start out

bright and early to-morrow morning, and hunt up jobs. I'll raise the money somehow. Oh! by jinks! there's one way I've just thought

"What is that?" she inquired, eagerly.
"I might get it from Clint Stuyvesant."

"Do you think you could?"
"Why not? He must have loads of money! Why, a dollar to me ain't more than a five cent piece to him. I'll ask him to lend it to me, and I'll bet he will." "Well, there would be no harm in asking

soon pay it back to him.' "Of course. I'll hunt him up to-morrow. And now—Hallo! Who's that, I wonder?" This inquiry was caused by a loud knock at the door of the sitting-room.
"Some peddler," answered Fleda. "Go

him; he can't more than refuse, and we could

and send him away. Fergus went to the door of the sitting-room, ppened it, and found Effingham H. Pickles standing in the hall in front of it, and this as-

tute lawyer grinned at him in a most affable "Hallo, Pickles!" exclaimed Fergus, in great

surprise.
"Mr. Pickles, if you please—there's a handle to my name," said the lawyer; and he crowded Fergus back into the room and closed "Don't you think it was the woman that dropped the handkerchief?" Fleda inquired, when he had finished.

"Draw it mild, my bold Fergus, alias the Fearnaught. 'Familiarity breeds contempt.' Always pay proper respect to your elders and betters. Aha! not so badly fixed here after all. Might have been worse—yes, decidedly worse—decidedly—de-ci-ded ly!

He took a comprehensive survey of the apartments as he uttered these words, while ergus stared at him in an astonished manner, and appeared to resent his unceremonious in-

trusion "What brought you here?" demanded Fergus, belligerently.

Pickles smiled upon him in a patronizing manner.
"I might be facetious and reply my legs, my bully boy," he made answer, "but I will not indulge in unnecessary irrelevancy. I

came to see you." Having thus spoken Pickles seated himself in the rocking-chair, crossed one leg over the other, began to nurse his hat upon his knee, and nodded benevolently at Fergus. Fleda put her head in at the door leading to

"What did you ask him in for?" she cried,

"I didn't ask him in; he walked in without asking," replied Fergus.

Fieda bounced into the room, confronted Pickles, and exclaimed shrilly: "Well, drat your impudence!"

"Fergus, my boy, is this your sister?" inquired Pickles, composedly.
"No, she is not," he answered shortly. "But I'm just as good!" cried Fleda, quickly.

(To be continued—commenced in No. 309.) VALENTINE.

"Oh! that I could be
The breeze which softly kisses thee,
Or else the sunbeam warm and bright
That crowns thy head with golden light!"
"The breeze," she answers. "dies away,
And sunbeams fade with close of day."

"Then if I were the violet
Which thou dost gather all dew-wet;
And wearing it upon thy breast—
Oh, happy flower, so loved, so blest."
"The violet must fade," said she;
"Then I should cast it off from me," Well, let me then, thy true love be, Winning thine every thought for me; I'll envy not the breeze or flower; Nor e'er the sunshine's golden shower."

Erminie:

THE GIPSY QUEEN'S VOW. BY MRS. MAY AGNES FLEMING,

UTHOR OF "THE DARK SECRET," "AN AV

CHAPTER XXXV-CONTINUED The cheering assurance that his fate was sealed did not in the slightest degree intimidate Ray as he walked along, with his fine form erect, his princely head thrown back, his full, falcon eye, with its clear, steady gaze, making the insolent stare of the outlaws fall. One thought was uppermost in his heart, thrilling through every nerve, throbbing in every pulse; he was drawing near Petronilla—would soon meet her, speak to her, comfort her in her captivity. What pair of pantaloons over the innocent and unsusceptible age of seven has not felt a decidedly queer sensation under his left ribs when about to meet the woman he loves? And if he fancied her pining away in 'durance vile," how much his eagerness to meet, to comfort, to console her would be increased! At least, it is to be hoped it would; and it had at least that effect on Ray Germaine, who, rapidly as they walked, in his burning impatience it seemed as though they were going at a snail's pace. Even before him he beheld Pet, locked up in some desolate prison, weeping as if her heart would break, and calling on her friends to save her. Little did he dream that at that very moment she was rolling over on the floor of her room, in convulsions of laughter at the mistake Black Bart had made, and the consequent rage its

discovery had thrown that worthy into. For upward of a quarter of a mile, they walked along the long, sandy, slippery beach, and then they suddenly diverged, and turning an abrupt angle among the rocks, they cam to a part of the hill overgrown with stunted It was a bleak, lonespruce and cedar bushes. y place, little frequented, and with no sign of anything like a hut, or cavern, or habitation, far or near. But here the whole party came to a simultaneous halt; and the smuggler-chief, putting his fingers to his lips, gave a long, loud, sharp whistle. While Ray watched these proceedings with intense interest, part of the thick While Ray watched these prounderbrush seemed to move; a huge rock was violently dislodged from its place, and a narrow, low opening, that it seemed hardly possi-ble to enter, save on one's hands and knees, was revealed. The narrow chasm had evidently, at some remote period, been made by a convulsion of Nature, but Art had since been employed to widen, enlarge, and conceal it. The huge rock was made to fit securely, and could only be opened from within, thus defying detection. Those in search of Pet that day had passed over the spot a dozen times, without dreaming in the most remote way that there could be an opening concealed among the apparently-solid rocks.

Captain Reginald turned to the utterlyastonished Raymond, and gazed at him for a moment, with a peculiar smile of sarcastic tri-Then stooping his tall body, he passed through the opening, and disappeared in the seemingly interminable darkne "You go next," said Black Bart, to Ray.

Without a moment's hesitation, the young man obeyed; and having entered the aperture, found himself in the same long, narrow, dark passage into which Garnet had borne Pet the evening before. Ray descended the narrow, steep steps, faintly illuminated by the dim rays of a dark-lantern held by the man who admitted them; and following the smuggler-captain through the long, rocky passage, entered, at last, the large outer-room—the rendezvous af the outlaws.

The roughly-dressed, rougher-looking men lay, or sat, scattered about in every direction, some asleep on the floor, some talking in low cones, and others amusing themselves as they pleased. In a remote corner sat the woman Marguerite, her arms dropped on a little table, her head lying on them, as if asleep. Her presence accounted for the unusual stillness

of the men. She was not asleep, however. As the new-comers entered, she lifted her head quickly, and after a fleeting glance at her husband, fixed her eyes steadfastly on the stranger. strange resemblance to her husband was the first thing to strike her. She half started up, dashed back her wild, disheveled black hair, and gazed upon him with a sharp, suspicious look. The men, too, stopped in their customary avocations to look at the new-comer, and scan him from head to foot with inquiring eyes. Ray's dark, flashing eyes fearlessly encountered theirs, as he glanced vainly around

the room in search of Pet.

"Another prisoner, my good lads," said Captain Reginald, as he entered. "Who is he, captain? who is he?" chorused

half a dozen voices together. "His name I have not yet bad the pleasure of hearing. Seeing us under the rocks, and being of an inquiring spirit, he leaped down among us, and without ceremony, presented himself. Wishing to indulge the said spirit of inquiry, I persuaded him to accompany me here, and have much pleasure in making you acquainted with him now. He is very urgent to find out what has become of Miss Lawless; and as he is evidently a friend, perhaps a lover of hers, I could do no less than promise to let him see

and console her in her captivity. This speech, which was delivered in his customary half-careless, half-mocking tone, was received with a cheer and a laugh by the men. Ray, flushed and irritated, turned to the speak-

er, and said, passionately: 'Let me see her, then! Where is she?' "Easy, my dear young friend—easy! Get-ting excited and fierce never pays in this world. You will see the young lady time enough."

At this moment, the woman Marguerite approached, and laying her hand on her hus-band's arm, and fixing her sharp, black eyes on his face, pointed to Ray, and said some thing in a low, rapid tone in French. "Ya-as," drawled Captain Reginald, passing

his hand carelessly over his thick, black whis-kers, and looking indifferently at the young man. "It is rather strange. I noticed the resemblance myself. How is your captive?" Before she could reply, the curtain was pushed aside; and with wide-open eyes, flushed cheeks, and wonder, delight and incredulity on every feature, Pet stood before them. Ray's voice had reached her ear, and half-inclined to doubt the evidence of her senses, she stood there, literally rooted to the ground. Yes, there he was-his own proud, fiery, handsome self; and forgetting everything in her delight, Pet uttered a cry of joy, and sprung toward him. He took a step forward, his face flushed with many feelings, and the next

moment, for the first time, Pet was held clasp-"Oh, Ray! dear Ray! I am so glad!" ex-claimed Pet, scarcely knowing what she said, in her joy and amazement. "Dearest Ray—

my gracious! I didn't mean that; but, oh, Ray! I am so glad to see you again!" "My own Petronilla! my dearest love!" he passionately exclaimed, bending over her. "How on earth did you ever find me out, Ray, stowed away here under the earth?" asked Pet, whose utter amazement at seeing him

feeling. "Who told you these fellows had carried me off to this black hole?" "No one—we only suspected it." "And you know, Ray, it was the greatest mistake all through. They meant to carry off Erminie-think of that!-and they took me in I expect they are making an awful time about it up in the upper world—ain't they? I suppose papa's gone out of his head

"Your father is not at home, Petronilla. Ranty is nearly distracted.' "Ranty? Why, Ray-my goodness, Ray!

is Ranty home?" "Yes—arrived late last night." "Did you ever! And they had to take and carry me off such a contrary time, and I wanted to see him so much. funniest, most disagreeable affair, from beginning to end! I say, Ray, how did you find me out, though?"

"It was all an accident. I will tell you an-

other time. What was the cause of your being abducted this way, Pet?"
"Why, if your coming was an accident, mine was a mistake—thought it was your Erminie, you know, because I look so much like her, I expect. And now, what's going to turn Are you going to take me home? "Hardly, I fancy," said Captain Reginald, who, with the rest, had all this time been watching them and listening, half-curious, half-amused. "Mr. Ray, if that is his name,

will hardly get back as easily as he came.

"Why, you hateful old brigand! You wouldn't be so ugly as to keep him whether he wanted to or not?" said Pet, with flashing eyes. "Sorry to disoblige a lady, but in this case, I fear I must," he said, bowing sarcastically. Pet, having by this time got over the first shock of her surprise, like all the rest, was forcibly struck with the resemblance between the smuggler-captain and her handsome lover. Her bright eyes danced, for a few seconds, from one to another, and then she burst out

with: 'Well, now, if you two don't look as much alike as two strung mackerels, my name's not Pet. I said all along, Ray, you were his very image, and I'll leave it to everybody in general if you ain't. If you were only twenty years older, and had whiskers sticking out from under your chin like a row of shavingbrushes, you would be as much alike as a cou-

ple of peas.' "'Pon my soul, the likeness is stror'nary!" exclaimed Black Bart, looking from one to another. "You look enough alike to be his mo-

"Really, I feel flattered to resemble a young gentleman half so handsome," said the captain, n his customary tone of careless mockery. The resemblance must be very striking, since it attracts the notice of every one.

"I declare, it's real funny!" said Pet. "May-be you will turn out to be relatives, by-and-by who knows? It always ends so in plays and novels, where everybody discovers, at last,

they are not themselves at all, but somebody

"May I ask the name of the gentleman whom I have the honor to resemble? I hardly think, Miss Lawless, we will turn out to be re latives, as I have not one in the wide world. said Captain Reginald, with something like a cloud settling on his dark face.

"My name is Raymond Germaine," said Ray, coldly.

"Germaine!" exclaimed the smuggler, starting suddenly and paling slightly, "did you

say Germaine?" "Yes, sir; what is there extraordinary in that?" asked Ray, who earm still encircled Pet. Captain Reginald did not reply, but paced abruptly up and down the floor for a few mo-ments. All were gazing at him in surprise;

but there was fierce suspicion in the dusky depths of Marguerite's black eyes. He came back at last, and resuming his for

mer posture, said, but no longer in his cold, sarcastic tone: "I once knew a person of that name, and its utterance recalled strange memories. It is not a very common name here-may I ask if you

belong to this place?" "No; I am English by birth, but I have lived here since a child."

"English!" He started wildly again, and this time looked at the young man in a sort of terror.

"Yes—or rather, no; for though born in England, I am not English. I come of another

The fixed glance of the smuggler's eve grew each moment more intense, his dark face paled and paled, until, contrasting with his iet-black hair and beard, it looked ghastly His breath came quick and short as he almost

And that race is-" "The gipsy! Yes, I am of the degraded gipsy race," exclaimed Ray, with a sort of flerce pride, as though he dared and defied the world to despise him for that.

The smuggler-captain reeled as though some one had struck him a blow, and grasping Ray by the arm, he exclaimed, in a low, husky

"Tell me who brought you here. You were a child, you say, when you left England —who had charge of you?"

"My grandmother-a gipsy! What in the name of heaven, sir, is all this to you?" exclaimed Ray, like the rest completely astounded by this strange emotion.

"Her name!" said the outlaw, hoarsely, unheeding his question and the wonder of the

rest. "Among her tribe she was known as the gipsy-queen, Ketura."

'Just God!" exclaimed the smuggler-chief, as his grasp relaxed and with a face perfectly colorless, he stood like one suddenly turned to "Sir, what under heaven is the meaning of

this?" said the bewildered Ray, while the rest looked on almost speechless with astonishment.

There was no reply. The outlaw had leaned his arm on a sort of mantel, and, with his head dropped upon it, stood like one stunned by some mighty blow. All were white and mute with wonder.

He lifted his head at last, and they started to behold its dreadful ghastliness. His eyes for some moments were fixed in a long, inexplicable gaze on the surprised face of Ray, then, in the same, low, hoarse tone, he asked: "And she, your grandmother—does she still

live?"

"Where?" "In Old Barrens Cottage; but she is a help-

less paralytic.' "So near, so near! and I never knew it. Great Heaven! how wonderful is thy dispensations!" he groaned.

"Is it possible you knew her?" asked the bewildered Ray. "Yes, I knew her," he replied, slowly. Tell me, did she ever speak to you of your

father?" Ray's brow darkened, and his eyes filled with a dusky fire. "She did-often. My father was drowned!

He was branded, tried, convicted, and con-demned for the guilt of another. His day of retribution is to come yet! Enough of this-I cannot understand what possible interest all this can have for you."

"You will soon learn. Come with me Miss Lawless, remain with my wife until my return. This way, young man," said the out-law, turning to the inner apartment and mo-

tioning the other to precede him. The astonished Ray did so, and the curtain fell between the wonder-struck assembly outside and the twain within.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

THE OUTLAW'S STORY. "They did not know how hate can burn In hearts once changed from soft to stern, Nor all the false and fatal zeal The convert of revenge can feel."—Byron.

"BE seated," said the outlaw, with a wave of his hand.

Silent and wondering, Ray obeyed. His strange companion walked across the room, and for some moments stood with knit brows and downcast eyes, like one absorbed in painful thought. Then he began pacing up and down, while Ray watched him, inwardly wondering whether this half-smuggler, half-

pirate captain was quite right in his mind. He stopped, at last, in his quick, excited walk as rapidly as he had commenced, and facing round to where Ray sat, demanded: "Why did my-this gipsy, Ketura, leave

England?" I do not know-she never told me," replied Ray.
"Old Earl De Courcy died shortly after I,

her son, left England—perhaps she was instru-mental in his death and was obliged to fly." "Of that I know nothing," said Ray, impa tiently. "What has all this to do with the

revelations you are to make?" tion answered. You say she resides in Old Barrens cottage?"

"You live there too, with her, of course?"

"If she is, as you say, a helpless paralytic, how has she contrived to support and educate you—for I perceive you are educated?" "It was not she who did it. I am indebted for my education to the kindness of an old gentleman who resides near us," said Ray, flushing and biting his lip till it was bloodless 'Who attends to her now, in her helpless-

"Erminie and her servant."

"Erminie who? Oh, I remember; Miss Lawless spoke of some Erminie Germaine who was to have been brought here instead of her. Who is this Erminie?"

"I cannot tell. My grandmother brought us from England together—she was a mere in-

"Perhaps she is your sister?"

"No; her very looks forbid such a supposi-tion. That there is no gipsy blood in her veins, I am confident."

"And gipsy Ketura brought her from England? Strange—strange! Who can she be?" said the outlaw, musingly. "She has often spoken to you of the De Courcy family, 'Yes, often."

"Did she tell you Lord Ernest Villiers married Lady Maude Percy?"
"She did."

"Do you know if they had any children?" "I do not know."
"She never told you?"

"Never," said Ray, wondering where this 'Catechism of Perseverance" was to end.
"Strange, strange—very strange!" said the

outlaw, pacing up and down, with brows knit in deep thought. "And so you are determined to avenge the wrongs of your father, oung man?" he said, after a pause, stopping before him again.

"Yes, Heaven helping me, I will!" ex-

claimed Ray, fiercely.
"Heaven?" said the outlaw, with his old sneer. "It is the first time I ever heard Heaven aided revenge; Satan helping you, you mean. And how is this revenge to be

accomplished?" "Time will tell," said Ray, impatiently. "It cannot concern you in any way, Captain Reginald; and on this subject you need ask me no more questions, for I will not answer

them." "As you please," said he, with a strange mile. "You have inherited the fiery, passmile. is, you say, drowned?"
"Yes—yes! To what end are all these questions?" sionate spirit of your race, I see. Your father

"Patience, Mr. Germaine; I will come to

that presently. Did your grandmother ever speak to you of your mother?"

"Very little," said Ray, in a softer tone.
"She told me she never saw her, but that she was a lady of rank. That, however, I am inclined to doubt." "And why?" "Because my father was a gipsy. No lady

of rank, knowing it, would have anything to do with one of his class. Proud England's proud daughters would not mate with despised A streak of fiery red darted for a moment

across the dark face of Captain Reginald, and then passed away, leaving it whiter than before. "Love levels all distinctions, young sir,"

he said, haughtily. "If she loved him would not that be sufficient to break through all the cobweb barriers of rank? Have not all social ties been proven, thousands of times, to be more flimsy than paper walls before the irresistible whirlwind of human love and passion?" Ray thought of Pet, and his dark cheek

flushed slightly. What a convenient belief this would be, dared he adopt it! He loved her, and thrilling through his heart came the conviction that she loved him. Would she, too, break down these "paper walls" for his sake? Would she give up all the world for him, as thousands had done before, according to this strange man's story?

"Your mother was a lady of rank—is a lady of rank, for she still lives!" were the next words, spoken rapidly and excitedly, that aroused him from his dangerous reverie.

"My mother lives?" exclaimed Ray, springing to his feet.

Yes." "Great Heaven! Where?"

"In England, most probably."
"My mother lives? Can it be possible? Who is she? What is her name?" demanded Ray, like one beside himself.

Lady Maude Villiers, Countess De Courcy! exclaimed the outlaw, while his dark, fierce eyes blazed. Ray stood for an instant paralyzed; then

an expression of anger and utter incredulity flushed his face and flashed from his eyes. "My mother the Countess De Courcy!" he aid, scornfully. "Do you take me for a fool,

said, scornfully. "Captain Reginald?" "Young man, before high Heaven I swear I speak the truth!" said the outlaw, solemnly. "Did not Ketura tell you the manner in

which your father's marriage was brought about? "That he inveigled my mother into it by some unlawful means? Yes; she told me that. But, good heavens! the idea of it being Lady Maude Percy! Oh, it is absurd, ridiculous,

incredible, impossible!" exclaimed Ray, vehemently. "It is the truth! Reginald Germaine, look

me in the face, and see if I am not speaking the truth." Yes; no one could look in those dark, solemn eyes and doubt his words.

Stunned, giddy, bewildered, Ray dropped into his seat, feeling as if the room was whirling round him. "And you—who, in Heaven's name, are you, that know all this?" he passionately

"That I will tell you presently. Suffice it to say that I do know that I am speaking

God's truth." "Angels in heaven! the Countess De Courcy my mother? From whom did you learn

"From your father." "My father is dead."

"Your father is not." "What?"

"Your father is not dead!" "Sir, you are either mad or mocking me!" exclaimed Ray, springing flercely to his feet. "Young man, I am neither."

"My father was drowned on his way to Van Diemen's Land,"

"Your father was not." "Great heavens, am I sane or mad?" ex-claimed Ray, in a loud, thrilling tone. "Man, demon, devil! whoever you are, was not the transport wrecked on her way from England?'

"And all on board lost?"

" No."

"No; I repeat it. All were lost but two—your father was one of these." "Heaven of heavens! And where is my fa-

ther now?" "That, too, you will learn anon. If you please, we will take things in the order of their occurring. Listen, now. Sit down and be calm; getting excited will do no good, and only retard matters. The transport struck a sunken reef and was wrecked one stormy

Your father and one sailor clung to a spar until daylight. By that time all the rest had disappeared-were ingulfed in the ocean and perished. Captain, sailors, convicts and all were equal, at last, in the boundless sea. Before noon the next day your father and the sailor were seen and picked up by a passing

"Were you that sailor?"

"Patience, my dear sir," said Captain Reginald, with a slight smile: "who I was does not matter just now. The ship was a merchantman, bound to a far-distant port. took us with them, and over a year elapsed before our sails filled for 'Merrie England' again. We were in the South Seas-then, as now, infested with pirates; and we never reached our island-home. For one day we were chased, overtaken, attacked and defeated by a pirate, and more than half our number found graves in the wide ocean, where many a brave heart had grown cold before, and will

while the great sea rolls. "We?" broke in Ray at this point, fixing his eyes piercingly on the other's face—"we? Then you were the sailor saved with my fa-

Again that fleeting, quickly-fading, inexplicable smile flickered for an instant round the

lips of the outlaw, as he said:
"Hasty and impatient yet. You must learn that great Christian virtue, patience, Mr. Germaine; one cannot well get through the world without it. Whether I was the sailor in question, or not, does not matter; suffice it to say I was on board the ship when she was mastered by the pirates. They were short of hands, and the captain very graciously offered their lives to those that remained, on condition of their taking an oath of allegiance to him, and becoming rovers and free lords of the high seas. One or two honest souls preferred the red maws of hungry sharks who went swimming round the ships, casting longing eyes up at us. asking, as plainly as looks could speak, for another mouthful of an old salt. They were gratified, too; for three of as good, brave warm-hearted fellows as ever climbed the rigging walked the plank that hour, and found their graves in the capacious stomachs of the ravenous devils of sharks. Poor fellows! if dead; and then, in a speech much shorter than there is such a place as heaven they went there is sweet, gave them to understand that every straight; for heaven is as easily reached by water as land. I suppose it doesn't matter whether people are conveyed to it in canvas

shrouds or inside of sharks."
"Very true," said Ray; "and you joined

the pirates to aid my father?" "Yes, we joined them; I was reckless and so was he; we did not care a fillip whether we cruised under the black flag or the red cross of St. George. Life was not of much value to him for its own sake, but he had to live for sundry notions-revenge, I fancy, being th strongest. Then he had a child living-you Master Raymond; and though considerable of a devil himself, he had some human feeling left, and the only white spot in his soul was his love for you, for his mother, and for Lady Maude Percy. For he loved her then, love her still, and will while life remains for him. "And yet she scorned him," said Ray, with

flashing eyes and dilating nostrils.
"Yes, she scorned him," said the outlaw, "no one else could have done it and live. But he loved her, and though he had resolved never to see her more, yet her memory and that of her child were the only bright spots remaining

in his darkened life. "Well, Mr. Germaine, he sailed along with the pirates. They were a motley assembly, that crew-men from every nation, whom crime, wrong, revenge, hatred, or any other dark, dreadful cause had driven together here to wage eternal war against the world they hated, and find their only delight in scenes o blood, pillage and murder. There were French, Spanish, Italians, English, Corsicans, and Heaven knows what besides, all jabbering to-gether there—raising the most infernal com motion sometimes, when they got drinking and fighting, that ever shamed Babel. The discipline was pretty strict, about as strict as it could by any possibility be among such a gang, but they would break out at times, and then the diabolical regions themselves might have found it hard to raise such scenes as er There were worse crimes than murder committed, sometimes, by these human fiends your father never took part in them, though the memory of the past kept him from that. Standing by myself, sometimes, after with ing things that would make your blood curdle, I used to wonder if there was a deep enough pit in hell for these fellows. When I wa young I used to believe in such a place. Mr. Germaine, no doubt you do now; but somehow I got over that and sundry other pleasant be liefs of late years. Though, whenever I think of what I saw and heard on board of that cursed floating pandemonium, I wish, from the bottom of my soul, there was one to grill

them alive for their deeds in the flesh " "Did my father ever take part in these horrible scenes?" asked Ray, with a slight shud-

der.
"No, never!" replied the outlaw, emphatic-"your father had been a gentleman once, and his whole nature revolted against this brutality. No, he never joined these fearful revels, but he fought like the very fiend himself in open warfare, especially against the When they were attacked he was worth the whole pirate crew together. He fought, and cut, and clove, and slashed them, like the devil and all his angels. Burning and smarting still under the sense of his mighty wrongs and degradations, he seemed determined to wipe out all his sufferings in their blood. Many an English heart grew cold in death to atone for the wrong one of their countrymen had done him. He had vowed vengeance against the whole nation, and I doubt whether St. Senanus himself kept a vow more religiously both in letter and spirit

Well, Mr. Germaine, we cruised along with these sea-wolves for some four or five months, and kept on at our old trade of throat-cutting. plank-walking, scuttling, sinking and burning ships. Sometimes, to vary the amusement, and breathe a spell, we used to go ashore and raise old Nick generally among the peaceable inhabitants of various sea-port towns and cities. These places very soon get too hot to hold us, and we never ventured back to the same place twice: for some of the men, getting tender-hearted at times, would take a fancy to the pretty wives and daughters of the go citizens, and carry off two or three of them for the benefit of sea-air. Of course there always was the devil to pay when these little escapades were found out, and it was like running our heads into a hornet's-nest to go back. father wished to go to England and see after you, I fancy, but there was no opportunity. He managed to make his escape, however, after a long time; gave the high sea-wolves leg bail one moonlight night, and was off. reached England in safety, and there, the first news he had was his own death, and the marriage of Lady Maude Percy to the son of his enemy, Lord Ernest Villers.

"The news nearly drove him mad, for his love for that beautiful lady amounted to frenzy. His intentions had been to seek you out; but when he heard of that marriage he fled from England as if the old demon was after him, and never rested till he reached the place where he knew he was most likely to

meet his old friends, the pirates, again. "Well, he found them, gave some plausible

that happy band of Christian brothers once more. He reached them just in the nick of time, too; for their commander was dead, and the whole crew were plunged in deepest affliction about it, as they were never likely to find another who could kill, slay, burn, and murder all before him, and send insubordinate sailors to kingdom come, with a rap of a marlin-spike, as neatly as he could. Your father had, from the first, been an immense favorite with them, and had obtained that powerful ascendancy over them that men of refined and strong minds always possess over coarse, brute natures; and besides, he had the amiable qualities of his lamented and accomplished predecessor in a very high degree. Therefore, no sooner did he arrive than he was unanimously, and with one accord, elected to the vacant command, and stood in the shoes of the never-tobe sufficiently-mourned-for Captain Diago. who, having served his Satanic Majesty like a faithful servant for five-and-twenty years in this whirligig world, went to aid him in keep ing the Kingdom Infernal in order, with five ounces of lead through his skull. "Well, Mr. Germaine, under the command of your worthy father, who, by the way,

dropped his alias of Germaine when he first joined the pirates, the 'Diable Rouge,' as we called, very appropriately, our ship, did a flourishing business, and sunk more goodly vessels belonging to their various Christian Majesties than all the other gay crafts sailing under the black flag at the time. He did some good, too, among his own crew-put a stop to all their not-easily-to-be-told excesses, of more kinds than one, and let them know they had found their master at last. They were inclined to rebel, and did rebel at first; but he very coolly took out a brace of pistols and shot two of the ringleaders of the mutiny symptom of insubordination would, in the future, be put a stop to in the same gentle and fatherly way. Well, Mr. Germaine, would you believe it, instead of flying into a rage at this, and kicking up a rumpus, they immediately conceived an immense respect for him, and from that day no Caliph Haroun Alraschid ever reigned it more royally over his bastina-doed subjects than did Captain Re— your father, on board the 'Red Devil.' On board a French privateer, that we sent to Davy Jones one night, we found a lot of ladies; and after sending their masculine friends to another and it is to be hoped a better world, we transferred the fair portion of the cargo to our own ship. It was nothing unusual for us to take ladies in this way; but since your father took command they were always well and respect fully treated, and landed at the first port we touched, well supplied with money, and left to make the best of their way home. Therefore, our having three or four of the dear creatures on board now would not have been worthy of notice, had not one of them, a most beautiful French girl, and a daughter of a great magnate of the land—a marquis de something—took it into her head to fall in love with our dare-devil of a captain; and when the ship arrived at the place where the rest were to be landed, mademoiselle absolutely 'put her foot down,' to use a common expression, and flatly refused to leave him. In vain he expostulated told her he did not love her; that the life he led was too dangerous for her to think of sharing; that his life was never safe for two consecutive minutes; that she would be wretched with him, and so forth; in fact, he talked to her as if he had been the greatest old anchorite that ever looked upon the adorable sex as a special invention of Satan—the whole thing was the old story of St. Revere and Cathleen over again. Mademoiselle wouldn't listen to reason, and determined to have him at any price. Our moral young captain hesitated at first; but she was young, beautiful, 'rounded and ripe,' and he was only frail flesh and blood like the rest of us; and the result of all her tears and pleadings was, that one evening they both went on shore together, and perpetrated downright matrimon in free and easy defiance of all the statutes and by-laws against bigamy that ever were made. Perhaps he thought he had made enough miserable for life, and that there might be some merit, after all, in making this infatuated young creature happy. It is really wonderful how girls, all the world over, will cling to the most undesirable set of men, blacklegs, pugilists, loafers, all sorts of outlawed people, and give the cold shoulder to sensible straight-forward, every-day Christians. You may talk to them till your tongue aches, and show them the evil of their ways in the most glaring colors, their reply will be: 'I love him,' and after that you might as well try to drain the Atlantic with a teaspoon as to make them give him up; they'll cling to him like a barnacle to the bottom of an old ship. hold on! it won't do to indulge in a train of moral reflections; for if I begin I won't know

when to stop. "Well, our captain took his pretty wife to sea with him-for, though he offered to procure a home for her on any part of the she would not hear of leaving him. He was totally unworthy of such strong, passionate love as she lavished upon him, but he did all he could under the circumstances to make her happy. He liked her, she was such a strong loving, brave-hearted girl-but he did not could not love her. It seemed as if all love had died out of his heart until the birth of hi little daughter, and then some of the old slumbering affections awoke and centered in her

"After her birth, his better nature, or what remained of it, seemed to awake, and he grew tired and sick of the evil life he glutted his vengeance sufficiently already and she was continually urging him to give it up; and now that time had calmed his feelings concerning the marriage of Lady Maude, he wished to return to England and seek out his other child! Such was his continual resolve but still nearly two years elapsed before he carried it into effect. At the end of that time he gave up his command of the 'Diable Rouge' to the chief mate, and with his wife and little dark-eyed daugter Rita, set out for England. No one knew him there; time and a tropical sun had changed him wonderfully, so he was free to pursue his investigations un-molested. He made every inquiry about his mother and son; but, of course, th vain, since, long before, they had left for this place

"But Fate, as if not tired of showering blows upon him, had still another in reserve for him. His little daughter Rita was lost one day in the great wilderness of London, and he never saw or heard of her after.'

Captain Reginald paused for a moment and averted his face, while Ray continued to listen with breathless interest.

"His wife nearly went crazy," continued Captain Reginald at last, lifting his head and speaking very rapidly; "she was crazy for a time, and he—he grew desperate. He did not rejoin the pirates—his very soul loathed them -but he became a reckless man. He roamed reason for his absence, and was admitted among | the world over, smuggled, ran into danger,

exposed himself to death every day-and lived through all. His wife accompanied him in every danger; she never left his side during all these long, long, sorrowful years. Fate, Providence—a superior power of some sort drove him to this coast; he found this cave, made it one of his rendezvous', and often came here, without dreaming that his mother and son were within a stone's throw of him. Truly, as I said, this world is full of paper walls, when mother, and father, and son dwell so near, and never until now met.

He paused and came over to Ray. He started to his feet and confronted the strange narrator with wonder-wide eyes.
"Restored now!" he said, wildly. "And

have they met at last?" "They have," replied the outlaw, with a

strange, sad smile. "My father! my father! where is he?" cried Ray, half delirious with all these revela-

"He stands beside you! I am your father!" was the thrilling answer. (To be continued—commenced in No. 290.)

"Oh, wearisome condition of humanity!"

How many wretched homes in our land! How many heart-broken invalids! Life with many signifies a mere onerous existence. All are subject to disease, but when health is removed the hope is nearly gone out. Sickness is usually incurred through exposure or carelessness. Especially is this true with those diseases peculiar to woman. Through her own imprudence and folly she is made to drag out a miserable existence—a source of annoyance and anxiety to her friends, and anything but a comfort and pleasure to herself. Exposure to the cold at times when she should be most prudent, and overtaxing her body with laborious employment, are both fruitful causes of many of the maladies from which she suffers. Gradually the bloom leaves her cheeks, her lips grow ashy white, her vivacity departs, she continually experiences a feeling of weariness and general languor, and altogether presents a ghostly appearance. What does she need? Should she take some stimulating drug, which will for the time make her "feel better," or does her entire system demand reparation? She requires something which not only will restore to health the diseased organs, but will tone and invigorate the system. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will do this. It imparts strength to the diseased parts, brings back the glow of health, and restores comfort where previously there was only suffering.

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THE WEEKLY SUN.

NEW YORK.

Eigh een hundred and seventy-six is the Centennial year. It is also the year in which an Opposition House of Representatives, the first since the war, will be in power in Wa hington; and the year of the twenty-thir' election of a President of the United States. All of these events are sure to be of great interest and importance, especially the two latter; and all of them and everything connected with them will be fully and freshly reported and expounded in THE SUN.

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NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 19, 1876.

The SATURDAY JOURNAL is seld by all Newsdealers in the Unite ties and in the Canadian Dominion. Parties unable to obtain i

almost surery and adversariant subscriptions, subsc

Sunshine Papers.

St. Valentine's Day.

COMING events cast their shadows before For several weeks the shop windows have her-alded the approach of St. Valentine's day.

Valentine! There was a time when St. Nick himself was not held in higher repute But the pretty old customs, and quaint cononce made the celebration of the Fourteenth of February a veritable festival, are fast dying out. An age of glaring colors, coarse caricatures, and penny prints, has well nigh shorn St. Valentine of all glory. And, too, the world is growing so wondrous wise that only elegant elaborations and conventional deceit can please its sons and daughters; and amusements in which their ancestors took pleasure they regard with contempt.

But let us honor St. Valentine as long as we The day of that patron saint was a beautiful one in the memory of many whom we have known and loved. Our mothers and grandmothers looked forward to its coming with more golden hopes and fluttering hearts than many of the worldly-wise damsels of to day look forward to their wedding morn. The only advantage in favor of the lattermentioned maidens being that they are generally practical enough to assure to themselves Indeed, St. Valentine's day was one from which many a dame of yore dated her future felicity; the halcyon time when a long-loving but bashful swain invoked the blessing of Cupid, and, in the center of some marvelous production of knife and scissors, indited in im mortal verse:

Fourteenth of February fine, I choose you for my valentine! I choose you out of all the rest. The reason is, I love you best!"

This day with us, is yearly less and less of a festival. We should scarcely remember it at all, save for the persistency of calendar makers, or the sight of some hideous daubs of advertisements, or a chance glimpse of the postman, handing an ornamental envelope to cook, in at the basement window. Yet its celebration dates back sixteen hundred years, and its or igination to the Eternal City. Amid the seven hills of ancient Rome, during the month of February of each year, a certain feast was held—the feast of Lupercalia.

Then it was that the Roman youths were wont to choose the maidens whom they should lead to the hymeneal altar. Their manner of doing this was entirely without the due consideration given in these latter times to sentiment and stamps. Still, the Roman method had the merit of making expeditious, judicial, and unalterable, affairs that ordinarily are attended by no end of misunderstandings, mistakes and changes. How much heart-burning it must have saved otherwise rival damsels aspiring for the hand of the same Adonis! And maneuvering mammas, bent on getting the "best catch" for their daughters, what a load of care they escaped! And as Venus, the goddess of love, and her little boy-god Cupid, were believed to overrule and arrange the entire ceremony, what doubt could there be of its perfectness? The names of a number of young girls were placed in a box. A corresponding number of young men approached this matri monial lottery, which held a prize for each, and drew the names. And each drawer ac cepted his prize as the one decreed by the gods to become his parner for life.

The fact that this was a heathenish custom as a cause of great uneasiness to the early Christians, for they deemed it nevertheless a wise one. And no wonder! Think of the spooning period obliterated by the Roman feast and its apportionment to each maiden of that mate which we are told exists, somewhere, for every feminine soul! goodness knows, some of them have hard enough work to find it! But the Christians did not deem it wise that this Courtship-saving Bureau should remain an institution of wicked old heathers. Accordingly, they Christianized it by a rechristening. The Feast of Lupercalia became the Feast of St. Valentine, and ever since the patronage of that saint has been solely devoted to lovers; and the day in the almanac so marked, is supposed to be the most favorable day in the year for matrimonial auguries and arrangements. Nor was this custom of choosing a bride upon St. Valentine's day confined to Rome. It prevailed, with various modifications and ceremonies, in many other countries.

It is said that the Fourteenth of February is the day when the birds choose their mates. Of course this can hardly be a fact worthy of credence in northern lands. But it is quite probable that in the south the birds really do choose their mates about the season of the year named for St. Valentine. And those being the very countries—in the south of Europe—where the birds were observed with religious zeal, as conveying omens of good or evil, it is reasonable to suppose that the ancient Valentine day customs were founded upon the habit of the

The observances that mark St. Valentine's day have changed greatly with the last roll of centuries. Yet, Cupid is still St. Valentine's little page. Bless the boy! One would think that his stock of arrows and darts should have grown beautifully less through all these years. That such seems not to be the case may be accounted for by the fact that for nine months out of every year, in the largest cities of different countries, hundreds of girls and women earn their daily bread by manufacturing not only darts and arrows, but all their accompanying gilt and filagree work. The making of valentines is a large, lucrative and dainty business, as carried on in the manufactories where the average styles are fashioned. Besides these, there are the costly valentines

again, those coarse sheets where splashes of color, and exaggerated malice or ridicule sup-ply the place of dainty conceits and sentimental poetry. The public would be really surprised were they to learn the names of the many artists and writers of well-known ability who have, at some time in their life, glad to turn an honest penny in any way, assisted in drawing designs and composing rhymes for

these paper elaborations.

Years ago, in England, on the morning of St. Valentine's day, the lassies were filled with excitement; for the first young man they should look upon, without their homes, was their valentine. Those were the times when deft fingers sketched with pencil, and embossed with needle-pricks, pretty designs on paper, or made sheets of lace-work by skillful manipulation of the scissors, and gallant lovers filled in these kindly home manufactures, with simple but honest declarations of love. A marvel of skill in this line, that has become a family heirloom, was shown us recently by some friends from Germany. And among that so-cial people the sending of love-tokens, in the shape of valentines, is not confined simply to one day; they are sent in congratulation at the New Year, and upon birthdays. In our own country the sending of valentines-often home-wrought ones-as confessions of affection from young men to maidens, or as tokens of friendships between acquaintances, was very popular half a century ago. Very generally the valentine was accompanied by a giftsilk dress pattern, embroidered handkerchief an article of jewelry, etc. These presents, like philopena presents, it was considered quite correct to accept. In some countries, even yet, Valentine's day and a valentine is made a

medium of conveying elegant trifles to friends.
Good, kind St. Valentine, and dear little Cupid, in these fast times, in this fast country, you are being very much forgotten, and shut out of the parlors, and forced to fulfill your tender mission among the children and the kitchen-maids. But let us hope for a revival in your favor! May friends and lovers again remember that you wait to bless all friendly communications and tender messages sent under your patronage.

A PARSON'S DAUGHTER.

FRETTERS.

WHAT a world of fretters we are! Our foolishness is only equaled by our inconistency because we so often fret about what we cannot help, and grumble over trifles that are of no serious moment whatever. Some of us fret because we haven't just as good clothes as others, or because somebody has been beforehand with us in getting the newest style before we had the chance to do so; or we wor ry because the sun don't shine, or that it snows, or that it don't snow, or that some expected thing has not occurred; we cannot see any sures in life and give up our minds to suicidal thoughts and talk about death and the grave until we sicken those around us and they sincerely wish we would shuffle off this mortal coil and rid the world of an unmiti-

gated bore. Yes, it is such a sphere of misery to dwell in when the milliner has failed to send home our new hat, and we did so want to hear the Rev. Mr. Goodwill's sermon on "Resignation." It seems as though fate itself were conspiring against us, that our cup of misery was overflowing, that our fair sky is overcast and there is no satisfaction in life. Eve, in the garden of Eden, must have been a happy creature, indeed, when she was not annoyed by having milliners disappoint her.

The women fret because they cannot vote and govern the whole country, and the men fret at the women because they want to vote and govern. They keep on at this fretting until they grow cross and disagreeable and until they resemble contestants in a prize fight, and we, lookers-on, fret because we cannot see how the battle is to terminate. Oh, this fretting! It must be pleasant and entertaining to ourselves else we shouldn't be so prone to indulge in it, and how we are ever going to conment is indeed a mystery. I'm afraid some of us will be discontented and want to come back to a world of wrangles and frettings, for some folks are never satisfied anywhere.

We might be just as happy a set of individuals as any in the world if we only took as much pleasure in pleasures as we do in fussing, fuming, and fretting.

I've he and of a person who, having nothing

else to fret about, complained bitterly that no acrobat ever tumbled from his trapeze and broke his neck in his town; while other towns were more fortunately favored!

We fret at what we style the incapacity of our leaders and think, if the reins of the Government were only in our hands, we could guide this country much better than our rulers do now. We think we could build a Rome in a day, and while we are fretting at what we would do we are leaving undone just what we should do. We want to scale mountains and think we are perfectly able to do so, yet we grow faint and weary at the top of the smallest hillock. We think it no hard taskimagination—to lead armies in the battle-field yet we cannot bear the slightest disappointment. Sometimes we grow heroic and think we would like to be a nurse in some of the hospitals, binding up the wounds of the soldier, vet we almost faint at the sight of blood from a cut finger, and, when this example of our bravery (?) is set before us, we fret and we don't know why we fret. If we actually did know why-if we paused to think-perhaps we should grow so thoroughly disgusted with ourselves that we should give up fretting entirely. That would be a good day to celebrate, and may it come along soon, else we shall have to put on many a tombstone, "Died EVE LAWLESS.

New York Notes.

THE world seems turned into one big, dingy olot, like the smudges on a naughty boy's copy-book (little girls always keep theirs nice, you know). Take one part rain, three parts fog, four parts mud, mix well together, and administer internally, externally, and inwell, that will do-every hour for seven days! There! you have a correct recipe of the "spell o' weather" Old Prob. has prescribed for us New Yorkers lately, and that we have had to take as good-naturedly as we could compatibly with our characteristic desire for a change every day. It is wonderful with what forti tude women have traversed the muddy thor oughfares. Shoe merchants must have done thriving trade. It has been an excellent time for displaying pretty boots. Croquet would never have become a necessary invention if New York mud could have been patented instead.

But, really, I think we must have a change, or what a sorry time to-morrow will be for immaculate boots and delicate carpets. Though, made simply as cases for elegant gifts; and, to be sure, the papers are announcing that and buggy and the pikes are manageable in that potato bug."

New Year calls are to be the exception this year. But then the papers say that every year, and the genial old custom, of which Washington thought so highly and declared ought never to be neglected, survived and flourished, in spite of news-dearth reporters And what a time there will be to-morrow Such fretting and snapping and grumbling and bowing and flirting and smiling; such compliments and criticisms; such concealment of real feelings and display of marvelous toilets. There is a great deal said about hard times, but never a suspicion of it will cast shadow upon New Year Day.

Hard times, indeed! Think of it; and one of our large jewelers has just made a set of turquoise buttons, for a New York girl, at seventy-five dollars a button. Very flush times for some people, if we may forswear the old adage and judge by appearances. have suspected, no doubt, from my last bit of gossip, that elegant buttons are the rage. And you have suspected rightly. Costly buttons perfect marvels of art, are just now the im portant item in high life. Moreover, suits are to be covered as thickly with buttons as the ground with crystals after a hail-storm. Our belles, like Sloppy, who turned poor Mrs. Higgins' mangle, will be all buttons. And the resemblance will be more striking, since New York ladies have universally taken to parting their hair upon one side, and drooping the crimped front in a curve low upon the brow. Writing of hair, perhaps there never was a time when ladies have been so little governed by one prevailing style in the arrangement of their coiffures. Dame Fashion has issued the command, "let women wear their hair as is most becoming to individual hight, size, and style of beauty;" and so long as your hair is methodically frowsy in front, why, suit your self about the disposition of it in the rear.

"They say"—excellent authority—that fashion, as well as all minor incidents connected with the harmony of the universe, moves in cycles. Positively we know that chignons were a reproduction of ancient Chinese, Egyptian and Roman fashions; the ladies of Queen Bess' time wore hoops and ruffles; the court dresses of the age of Louis XVI. were composed of the same materials that are sold for ladies dinner-dresses in this season of 1875 and 76; the brocaded silks that our great-grandmothers wore are used for the stylish costumes of to-day; so you need not be surprised when I inform you that the most stylish ornaments young ladies can don this winter are the strings of gold beads that belonged to the dead and gone ancient dames of the family. These are worn, one, two, three and four strings deep, with or without locket attached, and fairly dispute the palm with the Roman chains that are holding so continued and esteemed a place in the list of fashionable jewelry. the way, the newest innovations regarding the large-linked chains are alternate links of

polished and dull gold. I was to a brilliant matinee, in one of our most brilliant up-town theaters, the other afternoon, and one sprightly little character in the play asserted that it was execrable policy to "tack onto to-morrow what you can square off to day," A bit of philosophy I commend to "the girls," and which I intend to put into practice by closing to-day's article with the story of a little denouement that took place a few days ago in town.

Just recently, a handsome young sailor was arrested and summoned to appear in court to answer to the charge of dressing in masculine apparel. Well, it seems as if that were a very orthodox practice on his part, until the officers addressed him as her. The fact was, the handsome sailor youth, who quite charmed the court, was a girl of twenty-one, brave, pleasng, frank, who had grown too used to her assumed position to appear awkward. More-over, she was a Massachusetts girl, which, inleed, it seemed quite natural that she should A girl of good family, she, nevertheless, ommitted the grave indiscretion of marrying at fifteen. Before she was seventeen she con cluded that she had married too early in life, and would like to "see the world." Without any preliminaries she deserted husband and child, and adopted the life of a sailor, in which capacity she has been quite all around the world, and has also served in our navy. But desertion seemed a failing of hers, and she deserted from the naval service. Now she is going home, with tanned, healthful face, and hands callous and hard as iron. How she be received by her liege lord is a speculative subject. I will leave you to ponder upon it, fair readers, with the hope, on my own be half, that she will meet with a more kindly reception than she merits.

Foolscap Papers.

Invitations to Our Centennial

In response to various invitations sent abroad to distinguished personages to attend the great Centennial Exposition to be held at Philadelphia in '76—which you no doubt have heard omething of through a newspaper, or your neighbor (which is just as good) the following answers have been lately received:

The Emperor of Germany writes: "I am almost pretty sorry that I cannot be on hand or on foot—at your great Centennial festival, but the fact is I have got so much work to do (and can't hire a hand) to keep Europe straight, and watch over its destinies, that I can's even leave home to go down town to buy a pair of socks. I should like to pack my vaise and foot it across the Atlantic if I had a good pair of boots to travel in, and visit your exhibition at half price, as you generously propose, if I could. Language—even the Ger man-fails to express my great desire to be there and take you all up in my arms at that time, and sit down to a feast of fried American Eagle, with star spangled napkins. But be my next winter's wood to be sawed. With professions which nearly amount

to regret, I beg to decline."

Queen Victoria writes: "I should like almost much to be with you at the great Centennial and tire myself to death wandering through those interminable rooms, but the fact is, about that time there will be housecleaning to do, and my hired girl couldn't get along with it rightly without me being here to oversee her. The voyage across the sea—which is the only thing which keeps America from being joined to England—is fraught with great perils and much sea-sickness; and in case the steamship should be swallowed by a whale what would become of my large and unprovided for family? I will be on hand the next time for sure, for I shall have ample time to arrange my affairs in the interval, and get my children and their children all good situations as princes, poets, gov-

ernesses, etc." The King of Sweden wrote: "I ought to have written to you accepting your invitation long ago, but somebody mislaid my postage I shall surely come if I can hire a horse

direction. Nobody knows just what a basket-ful of gratitude I feel for the invitation. This is the first Centennial your country has ever had, and it will be a few years before you will have another one, unless some great change takes place in your history. I will see that my other shirt is washed and ironed by that time, for I desire to come in state. earnestly desire to take one lingering look at your great American pumpkins, which no doubt will be the crowning feature of the Exhibition. Will any of your great statesmen be on exhibition then, and how much extra is the sight of them? Please state if the street-cars run to the Centennial buildings, and what is the fare. You can climb up on a

tree and look for me certainly."

The Prince of Wales said: "If mother will let me—and I will ask her to—I will buy a box of paper collars and come. Do you know what is the price of steerage passage over Your country will then be a hundred year old, with every tooth in its head, notwith-standing it chews tobacco. I congratulate you. If your nation survives another hundred years it will be two hundred years of It seems strange, but it is true--your noble country is propped up by polls, and un-less the polls are knocked out it is bound to I am proud that none but my own country is ahead of it. If the United States puts a chip on its shoulder we are the one to knock it off. We can lick you before you know it. You dar'sent take it up. Is there room enough over there for me to walk around a little, or is there danger of me stepping off somewhere? How is Philadelphia for free lunches? or what kind of cheap boarding-houses have you?"

The Emperor of Russia says: "If I can get anybody to take my place I will be there by return mail. I will get my boots patched by that time. Will it be necessary to bring an army along? I congratulate you on the one hundredth birthday of the American Eagle will bring a pack of fire-crackers and do my pest to help celebrate your Fourth of July. shall leave my crown at home and wear a straw hat if I come, and I desire cakes of ice to sit on to remind me of my own country.

You can set an extra plate for me."

The President of France wrote: "If I can't be there my soul will be—I will send it over securely packed in cotton, with 'This side up with care' on the box. If I can, however, will start and run right straight over, for l have wanted to come for many years. Couldn't you have your Fourth of July a little sooner in the season? There will be my potatoes to hoe, and the German Empire to watch. But, if I can run off for a few minutes I will run over and expose myself in your Exposition."

With a piece of chalk the Emperor of China writes: "Your invitation pleases me to a T. Be jabers, it would please me to death and a ittle beyond to shake hands with ivery moth er's son of ye, but, och hone! I fear the divil a it can I attind, for there is my tea to draw, and my salary, also, bad luck to it; and ivery-thing is upside down that isn't downside up. As soon as we attach California to our dominions we'll be nearer to you than iver. I cannot visit your barbarians this load of poles."

King Alphonso of Spain writes: "Maw says if I will behave myself an' keepe my fase clene and don't git into mischife with the other little Centennial boys, she will let me come over there and play with them a little while. Oh, it would be so jolly! just think of all the fun we will have—oh, cracky, and how's the rocking-horses, and the lossengers, and all them things? Oh, but won't it be bully! I'll bet you, hundred year old hosses, it will that!

Other letters have been received from various distinguished foreign persons who wear olug hats made of gold, but worded so diplonatically that we can't for our lives make out whether they intend to come or not. We will have numerous kings here if we have to send

a squad of police after them. The Emperor of Feejee writes that he would not hesitate to come if he knew just what kind of a crop of last spring's babies we have on WASHINGTON WHITEHORN.

Topics of the Time.

—Ann Swain, of San Francisco, has sued an omnibus company for \$299 damages for being eft on the sidewalk for "one hour, or thereeft on the sidewalk for "one hour, or there-bouts," the driver having failed to answer the nail, "thereby suffering great bodily and mental pain and agony, and being greatly damaged and njured." Ann wanted a buss, and not a man in the city to give her one! Is Ann so old and cross-eyed and freckled that no one would give

-Joseph Smith, son of the Mormon prophet and President of the organization called the True Latter-Day Saints, says the new institution comprises about 15,000 members scattered throughout the United States, Europe, and the Sandwich Islands. They adhere to the "original" faith," denounce polygamy, and reject Brigham Young's claim to the leadership. In Mr. Smith's estimation polygamy will never be abandoned by the Mormons. It must either be crushed out by superior power or sapped by overpowering public opinion. Polygamy exists to day by failure of the people of the United States to enforce their own moral enactments.

-The proportions which the business of horse racing has assumed in this country may be udged from the fact that during 1875, eight judged from the fact that during 1875, eight hundred and eighty races were run for stakes aggregating in value \$390,000, and it wasn't a particularly good year. The nominal stakes, moreover, are but a very small fraction of the tens of millions of dollars that change hands in bets between individuals. If horse-racing and betting are evidences of public demoralization, then Satan is scoring rapidly in his game with the moralists. Dr. Talmage will have to doff his coat and go at it in his shirt sleeves.

-The old historic Continental Congress will be sure to attract much attention during the year upon which we have just entered. Its first session began on the 5th of September, 1774, in Philadelphia, and until 1787 it held regular sessions in the following places; May 10, 1775, in Philadelphia; December 20, 1776, in Baltimore; March 4, 1777, in Philadelphia; September 27, 1777 in Lancaster Pa: September 30 hore; Matein 3, 147, in Imadelphia, September 30, ber 27, 1777, in Lancaster, Pa.: September 30, 1777, in York, Pa.; July 2, 1778, in Philadelphia; June 30, 1783, in Princeton, N.J.; November 26, 1783, in Lancaster, N.J.; January 11, 1785, and until the adoption of the Federal Constitution, in New York

-The following was a part of a young attor-

—The following was a part of a young attorney's peroration on argument of demurrer in a court recently: "May it please your Honor, this is a stupendous question. Its decision by you, this day, will live in judicial history long after you and I shall have passed from this scene of earthly glory and sublunary vanity; when the tower of Pisa shall be forgotten; when Waterloo and Borodino shall grow dim in the distant cycles of receiping centuries; when the names of of receding centuries; when the names of Eugene, Marlborough, and Napoleon are no longer remembered; when the Pyramids of the Pharaohs shall have crumbled into dust; when the hippopotamus shall cease to inhabit its native Nile; even then your ruling upon this denurrer will still survive in the volumes of legal lore, as fresh, green and imperishable as an autique big Thompson grasshopper or a Colorado

Readers and Contributors.

To Correspondents and Authors.—No MSS. received that are not fully prepaid in postage.—No MSS. preserved for future orders.—Unavailable MSS. promptly returned only where stamps accompany the inclosure, for such return.—No correspondence of any nature is sermisable in a package marked as "Book MS."—MSS. which are mperfect are not used or wanted. In all cases our choice rests first pon merit or fitness; second, upon excellence of MS. as "copy" hird, length. Of two MSS. of equal merit we always prefer the horter.—Never write on both sides of a sheet. Use Commercial Note size paper as most convenient to editor and compesitor, tearing of each page as it is written, and carefully giving it its folio or page number.—A rejection by no means implies a want of merit. Many MSS. unavailable to us are well worthy of use.—All experienced and opular writers will find us ever ready to give their offerings early at-ention.—Correspondents must look to this column for all information n regard to contributions. We can not write letters except in special

Declined: "A Few Pebbles," etc.; "A Tale of the West;" "How I Was Saved by an Indian;" poems by G. A. R., San Francisco.

by G. A. K., San Francisco.

Accepted: "Bertha's Mercy;" "A Woman's Memory;" "Jessamin's Pearls;" "Beauty's Sacrifice;" "Katy Did;" "A Coquette's Heart;" "Did He Kill Him;" "What Jessie Darling Saw;" "Blind Bertha;" "Detected by a Dream;" "Kitty Ransom's Night-watch."

MRS. W. P. H. We have the numbers you indi

OLIVER O. We do not personally know the individual. Inform yourself *fully* before acting.

J. M. You will find in our Dialogues and Speakers' series great numbers of pretty and effective pieces for the school stage.

PAUL N. Write out your valentine, even though t is quoted. That makes it more personal. Ladies f course have a perfect right to send valentines as rell as to receive them. H. J. D. We find your MS. too crude for any use. Nor do we revise imperfect manuscripts. That is the schoolmaster's work.

MRS. J. K. B. Sorry we can't use sketch. It is somewhat crude—immature. Write for a while for local papers. That experience will help you very

D. J. Brigham Young has not, we believe, been n the East for many years. He dare not come for ear of arrest. His absence from Utah would en-langer his "church."

danger his "church."

Dashing Dick. See Beadle's Dime Book of Verses for valentines to quote. Printed valentines are much used. Postage on them is the same as on ordinary letters. If the lady knows your handwriting get some friend to direct for you.

Constant Reader. Commercial note size is a good size for manuscript paper. Small letter size is much used. Also that known as "sermon paper." There is no stated remuneration to authors. Each contribution is paid for according to its trade value or value to the publisher.

SLAG EYE. Tennyson wrote the lines quoted. See his "Charge of the Light Brigade." As to Damon and Pythias, see any Biographical Dictionary. They were two Pythagorean philosophers of Syracuse in the fourth century before Christ. The novel named was written by George MacDonald.

J. E. V. We cannot supply the papers containing The Mad Detective.—There is no mining in the Black Hills country. Government has ejected all who went there, and will continue to do so until we purchase the territory from the Indians.—To learn to write better, get a good series of copy-books and practice as much as possible.

A. J. K. The actor's profession is an honorable one if honorably pursued; but it is greatly over-stocked with actors, male and female, of "stock" merit. Their wages are not high or remunerative, save in rare instances, and engagements are never continuous or permanent. Only those having real genius for "acting" should adopt the stage as a

genius for "acting" should adopt the stage as a profession.

HARRY ELTON, Coverdale. 5 yards wide by 968 long contains one acre; or 10 yards wide by 484 long; or 20 yards wide by 424 long; or 40 yards wide by 121 long; or 60 feet wide by 727 long; or 110 feet wide by 396 long; or 220 feet wide by 178 long contains one acre.

ALEX B. C. The only schools where education is absolutely free are our common and high schools—in which a most excellent education can be obtained. Go to them by all means. A fair English education is absolutely essential to success as a stenographer. You are not too old to learn any trade you have a special taste for. A pipe-finisher never can advance. It is a poor calling. A jewel-worker is a good calling. So is painting and paper-hanging if well learned. There are already botches enough.—Of course you can put in a claim under your father's will unless he has absolutely cut you off.—Will answer your other query next week.

Six Foot Butcher. We can supply papers from

Will answer your other query next week.

SIX FOOT BUTCHER. We can supply papers from No. 260. The set will contain the following complete serials, viz.: The Dumb Page, by Frederick Whittaker; A Terrible Truth, by Mrs. Jennie Davis Burton; Overland Kit, by Albert W. Aiken; Red Rob, the Boy Road-Agent, by Oll Coomes; Victoria. the Heiress of Castle Cliffe, by Mrs. May Agnes Fleming; Tiger Dick, by Philip S. Warne; The Flying Yankee, by Col. Prentiss Ingraham; Yellowstone Jack, by Jos. E. Badger, Jr.; Love in a Maze, by Mrs. E. F. Ellet; Idaho Tom, by Oll Coomes; Deadly-Eye, by Buffalo Bill (W. F. Cody); Erminie, by Mrs. May Agnes Fleming; The Prairie Rover, by Buffalo Bill; Nick Whiffies' Pet, by Capt, J. F. C. Adams: Pacific Pete, by Jos. E. Badger, Jr.

by Mrs. May Agnes Fleming; The Prairie Rover, by Buffalo Bill; Nick Whiffles! Pet, by Capt, J. F. C. Adams; Pacific Pete, by Jos. E. Badger, Jr.; Vials of Wrath, by Mrs. Mary Reed Crowell; Happy Harry, by Oll Coomes; Jack Rabbit, by Jos. E. Badger, Jr.—in all eighteen most attractive serials by splendid writers, for the small sum of three dollars! FANNY asks: "If a friend brings a friend of his to call upon a lady New Year's day, is the lady obliged to recognize the latter gentleman afterward?" Unless she has excellent reasons for not wishing to know him, she should recognize him, as any slight to him is a slight to her friend, who is supposed to hold himself responsible for the worthiness of any gentleman he introduces to a lady friend.

JENNIE N. H. Trenton. When a lady receives an

JENNIE N. H., Trenton. When a lady receives an avitation to a party she has a perfect right to proide herself with an escort.

vide herself with an escort.

Henry Hegeman. It is perfectly proper for a gentleman to make friendly calls upon his married lady friends. It would not be at all improper for you to take your betrothed to call with you upon the lady you are so anxious she should know; but it would be better to notify the lady of the time you intend making the call, so that your affiances will not be annoyed by possibly finding the hostess out.

out.

ED. BROOKES writes: "I have a very dear lady friend with whom I have corresponded for some years, and who has always been a kind and sisterly counselor to me. Now, I am engaged to a real sweet girl, but she thinks I am not devoted enough to her because I still write to my friend and go to see her occasionally. I would not, on any account, break friendship with my friend, yet I want my sweetheart to be assured that I love her devotedly. What can I do?" Convince your sweetheart of the sweetheart to be assured that Hove her devotedly. What can I do?" Convince your sweetheart of the different places she and your friend occupy in your affections. Perhaps if you show her your friend's letters, and make the two acquainted, your exacting little betrothed will become satisfied of the foolishness of her fears.

A B. C. writes: "What will be a cheap and suitable present to give a young gentleman? 2. What kind of hair is cedar hair? 3. What must I use on my face and hands to make them white and soft without injuring the skin? 4. Should a lady receive a ring from a gentleman merely as a present, not as an engagement-ring? 5. What do you think of my penmanship?" Why not make the gentleman a present? He will certainly value it more if it is the work of your own hands. We do not know what you call "cheap," but for \$2.50 you could make a gift far more elegant than anything you could buy—a pink and white silk mouchoir (handkerchief) case, slippers, shaving case, foot-rack, set of tidies, etc. If you prefer to buy, a book is always a pleasing gift. 2. We never heard of cedar hair, 3. Mix equal parts of the best white glycerine and rose-water together, and add a few drops of carbolic acid. This is excellent for the skin. Wash the face and hands before retiring, and then apply the mixture. 4. A lady should not receive gifts of jewelry from any gentleman, unless he is a relative or lover. 5. Your penmanship is too fine. Write larger, and learn to spell correctly. able present to give a young gentleman? 2. What must I use

HALSEY FITCH, Lansing, writes: "A friend and myself desire you to express an opinion upon two matters of etiquette. We met a young lady at church one evening, whom we both knew, and we escorted her home. Ought only one of us to have gone, or, as we were equally acquainted with her, did we do right? While stopping in the house a few minutes after reaching her home, we asked if we might call on her the following week, naming a certain evening. She said certainly. But we have wondered if we did wrong in asking. Please settle the matter for us," As you were companions, and both acquaintances of the lady, and only by chance became her escorts, you were perfectly justified in walking home with her together. There was no impropriety in your asking if you might call; but you had better have waited to see how cordial an as sent was given, and, if the lady was evidently pleased, then have added a request that she, herself, would name a convenient evening.

Unanswered questions on hand will appear

THE TRIUMPH OF LOVE. An Ode for St. Valentine's Day.

BY MICHAEL SCANLAN.

Rome, in her noontide splendor, babaric but sub-Had flung her crimson glory over all the coming

And the nations sung submission when her standard was unfurled,
For her mighty march of conquest thrilled a subjugated world!
Then war, the iron-visaged, insatiate and grim,
Had drawn her adoration from all other gods to

Till the roar of wrecking armies rolled like music to her ears.

Till her bosom knew not pity, till her flerce eyes knew not tears.

For the flowering of her spirit had been blindly trodden down By war's remorseless legions who had crowned her for their own.

As in a shepherd's bosom, so in the heart of Rome, l'hroned high above red carnage, Love had found a regal home; Rocked in her giant passions, wrapped in her flerce desires,
Drew beauty from her matrons, strength from her sinewed sires,
Then plucked the public homage from the front of

war, and wrung
Submission from the despot, till his battle banners

Submission from the despot, till his battle banners hung
As trophies on Love's altar, while heralds sung abroad
Through all the templed city, "Love is the greatest god!"
The people hailed the omen, and a day was set apart
When war should pay allegiance to the monarch of When war should pay allegiance to the monarch of the heart.

That day beheld Love gazing on the fair, uplifted face Of Rome, and the marble visage was lit with newborn grace— That visage battle-molded and seeming fixed as fate— As if the touch of pity had softened its lines of hate;
The flowers of her eager spirit, long crushed in her battle gloom,
Now leaped to the genial sunshine and burst into full-blown bloom; For Rome had newly risen to the high belief that Had deeper and holier raptures than blood-consum-She that had strangled pity and murdered mirth

with jeers, Rolled that day with laughter, and wept unblush-Rolled that day with laughter, and wept unblushing tears.

Hark to the trumpet crashes! now drowned in the mighty wave
Of the public voice proclaiming the god who has come to save!

Under triumphal arches, past temples thrown open wide,
While seas of soulful faces look homage on either side,
Ride heralds and war-gemmed legions, their weapons buried in flowers,
And youths and lithe-limbed maidens, winged like the flying hours,
Patrician plebeian bending, like thoughts in a penitent's prayer;
All Rome is abroad to worship in the temple of sun and air—
Anon comes the chariot of triumph, the victors smilling above,
And War, in garlands wreathed, sits at the feet of Love.

This was when the Roman in his young wolf-sight

ed days
Tracked up the everlasting through war's mad and
blinding ways;
But time with wasting vision looked in the heart of Rome, And it crumbled into ashes, and temple, arch and dome Gaped into shapeless ruin; her altars were o'er-

thrown,
And her gods, the world-consuming, live but in song
and stone—
The fierce, the blind, the lustful; things that uprose from clay At the call of the heated passions and reveled for a day— But Love rose young, eternal, above the reach of

TimeAbove the wreck of empire, beyond the Roman clime. Not all the hoary legions that have lapped the lands in flame;
That men might read in wonder some fratricidal

name,
Could keep the earth from blushing in her bridal
robes of flowers,
Nor stamp out the affections from this throbbing
world of ours;
Their gods, the crimson haloed, were consumed by
their own lust;
The adored and the adorers are long-forgotten
dust Gods and men grow olden, but love is ever young; To-day, as at creation, are his hymns of rapture sung: We clasp hands with the Romans as we set a day To crown him and proclaim him the monarch of the heart.

Then hail his coming herald, the gentle Valentine,
Cull flowers of the affections to strew on Love's
fair shrine,
And come with songs of gladness, sweet paeans of
old time,
Pure as the snow of Hecla, warm as the Roman
clime;
Swell, swell the living chorus by the rolling ages
sung:

sung: "Though earth and time grow olden, still Love is ever young.

Ever young and ever glowing, ever blessing while being blest."—

So woo him, open-armed, oh, ye maidens of the

West,
With the beauty of the Grecian and the vigor of old
Rome;
Be your hearts his living temples, be your hearths
his dearest home.

The Men of '76.

Washington.

BY DR. LOUIS LEGRAND.

GEORGE WASHINGTON-venerated name! One hundred years have not diminished but added to the luster of his fame.

As time widens the space between us and those days, when the tocsin of Liberty sounded through the land, we see more clearly that the hand of God was in it, for did He not raise up great men to meet the mighty crisis?

Grandly looming up through the distance, towers the great, wise and good Washington, proper leader of that gigantic struggle for freedom—the Moses of the New Dispensation, which was to embody the Gospel of Liberty and give to man the Government of the People Looking at him now, in the light of history, and contrasting him with those great leaders who molded the destinies of nations-Alexander, Cæsar, Charlemagne, Charles V., Napo-

leon-we are more and more impressed with his sublime character, for he alone of all earth's conquerors sought not his own aggrandizement but to give true freedom a perma nent abiding-place, and to plant the True Republic upon permanent foundations.

Washington was a Virginian by birth, and by education a man of the people. He came of an old and honored family—all of whom seem to have been persons of solid worth and substantial character, of the class denominated gentlemen "-landed proprietors. His greatgrandfather, coming from the North of England—the sturdy, independent and intensely Protestant portion of the realm, settled in Vir ginia in the year 1657. George, born in West-moreland County, February 22d, 1732, was the third son of Augustine Washington, but the eldest of five children by his father's second marriage. He received only a fair English education, for in those early days the sparsely settled country could support but few schools, and "tutors" were the chief reliance of the families of the "gentry."

From early years George was accustomed to hardy and active exercise. Running, wrest-ling, jumping, horse-racing, hunting, were the pastimes and sports of the people—in all of which he so excelled as to become a conceded champion. Humorous stories are related of his extraordinary strength, prowess and agility. But in all, he was the gentleman—the cood-natured, affable and generous nature which his serious after life toned down but

never obliterated. Taking up the calling of surveyor, he passed many weeks and months in running lines over the then quite unsettled region lying along the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and in what is now the northern portion of West Virginia.
The qualities he developed induced Governor Dinwiddie to make him a messenger to explore the region around and north of what is now Pittsburgh, where the French were establishing forts and encroaching on British possessions. This mission of great delicacy, hazard and exposure was performed in the winter of 1753-George being then only twenty-one years of age! So well did he discharge this trust that the next year he was made lieutenant-colonel of a Virginia regiment, raised to resist these French advances, and the colonel of the regi ment dying, George took full command, and then commenced a military career which want of space forbids us to follow. He made such splendid record that, when Braddock fell (July 9th, 1755) in his ill-starred campaign against the French forts on the north, at the ambush near Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh), Washington assumed command and brought the routed and demoralized army back to safety again, and won the highest praise for his splendid gallantry and military judgment. The Governor of Virginia made him commander of the colony's forces, and for three years following he was actively in the field against the French and Indians, in what is now called "the old French War"— a struggle which was alive with deeds of daring, adventure and suffering.

Retiring from the army in 1758, he married Mrs. Martha Custis, widow of John Parke Custis, and with his wife and her two children retired to his estate at Mt. Vernon, where the war of the Revolution found him, pursuing the peaceful life of a planter. Virginia sent him as one of seven delegates to the "Con gress" of the colonies, called to assemble in Philadelphia, in 1774, to consider the relations

with Great Britain. In the first Congress he was a very influential member, as well as in the second "Conti nental Congress," which met in Philadelphia, May 10th, 1775, to consider the alarming situation and devise a means of common defense. The battles of Lexington and Concord had been fought in April, and the gauge of war thrown down by Great Britain was accepted by all the colonies; so that when this second Congress met it proceeded at once to arrange for united defense. John Adams, of Massa-chusetts, indicated Washington as the proper man to assume chief command of the provided-for "Continental Army," and on motion of Thomas Johnson, of Maryland, he was nominated for that high office. The ballot was una nimous, and the commission was issued June 15th. 1775—two days before the battle of

Bunker Hill. How great must have been his merits that this wise Congress should have confided to him the tremendous trust of confronting all the powers of Britain's tried armies and tested generals! He never for a moment wavered his clear mind grasped the situation; its immense peril to himself, his family and his estate-its awful responsibility and herculean labor-he saw it all, and with a heroism not born of enthusiasm, but of sublime conception of duty, he accepted the trust, and, refusing all pay for his services, he stepped into his-tory—the center of observation of the world, and holding in his hands the destinies of three

millions of people.

To follow Washington through the eight years of military service which succeeded, is far beyond the limits of any mere sketch. Volumes have been given rious re ord, and yet the story in its completeness is untold, for the man was so calm, so steady, so patient, so undaunted, that, little by little the years pass, we begin to see him in a clear-er light, and to fix his true position as a man, as a commander, as a statesman and a sage. From North to South he moved, the very impersonation of an unconquerable will. feat, disaster, disappointment, all were met by that stern courage, which, undaunted even by the dreadful rigors of the winter at Valley Forge, compelled all to venerate the man, and to sustain to the end a cause which gave them such a leader.

And enemies-of course he had them. Did ever greatness escape the penalty of defamation, envy and distrust? Never! He who takes the lead of men and masses must become the target of skulking dastard and open detractor. Washington, whose fame is now so secure, was suspected, slandered, impugned by a cabal in and out of Congress, but the pene tration of the patriots at the head of affairs saved and sustained him—the end richly justifying their steadfast faith in the chief.

In the spring of 1783 it was announced that a preliminary peace had been signed in Paris plenipotentiaries of the three powers, Great Britain, the United States and France; but it was not until October 18th of that year, that the American army was disbanded by order of Congress. On November 25th the British army evacuated New York, and the American troops still in the service entered the city-Washington at their head. Oh, what an ovation followed! The people, wild with delight, fairly worshiped the ground on which he trod but, even then, he was the same dignified calm, undemonstrative man as in his eight caim, undemonstrative man as in his eight years of weighty responsibility, for, with a prescient eye, he yet looked ahead, and asked himself the question: "What next?"

Yes, what next? The colonies were now

'free and independent States," but only States each with distinct interests, with limitles powers for mischief and contention. Inde endence had released them from all foreign control, but what would now come in its wake? December 4th, 1783, Washington took leave of the army in New York, amidst an immense public gathering—a most affecting and impos ing incident; and, proceeding to Annapolis, Maryland, where Congress was then in session he formally resigned his commission to that august body, and retired to Mount Vernon the most admired and best beloved man in the

What were a scepter and crown to such glory! This Congress of Delegates continued, in adjourned sessions, until 1787, when it be came evident that something must be done to save the States from drifting apart and forming dangerous and inimical coalitions. Local and sectional jealousies, rivalries in commerce and settlement; impending separate State treaties with foreign powers; necessity of dis-charging the continental debt, the acquisition of territory to the west—all arose like so many warnings of danger, and a convention of all

the States was called, to meet at Philadelphia on the second Monday of May, 1787, to remodel and perfect the scheme for a Union of all the States under a common Constitution and au-

To this convention Washington was appointed, and upon its assembly was elected its presiding officer. It remained in session all summer, and resulted in the adoption, by it of our present Constitution (less its since added Amendments"), September 17th, 1787. This was only slowly accepted and ratified by the necessary majority of States, many of them being very averse to a dominating central power; and it was not until January, 1789 that the first national election was held. The Electoral College then chosen held its session in February, and Washington was unanimously elected as the first President of the United States of America, and John Adams, of Massa chusetts, was elected Vice-President; but from a delay in obtaining a quorum in Congress the electoral college votes were not counted and declared until early in April, on the 14th which month the General was informed of his

His journey from Mount Vernon to the city of New York, the then chosen seat of Government, was one grand ovation—a kind of triumphal progress. Crowds flocked from far and near to cheer as he passed, in carriages, on his way. Committees and delegations re ceived him as their guest, and escorted him until other like bodies claimed him at their boards; but, expressive as was this homage of people along the route, the reception at New York was so enthusiastic and spontaneous that it needed no further ceremony to assure the Republic. The formal inauguration took place April 30th. At 9 A.M. of that day all the churches in the city held divine service, and at moon, with imposing ceremony, the oath of office was administered in the balcony in front of the Senate Chamber in the old Federal Hall on Wall street (where the Custom House

Thus auspiciously was our present Government given form, life and effect, and, under Washington's sagacious advice, for the succeed ing eight years the Republic took permanent shape, and the United States, with marvelous rapidity, became a power among the nations. Retiring at the end of his second term Washington published his Farewell Address, a locument which, next to our Constitution, is most revered and studied by people and law-makers. While the Constitution is the law of our liberty, the Farewell Address is the spirit of that liberty, giving the correct interpreta-tion of that law; hence, it will ever remain to us a precious heirloom, without which Washington's incomparable gifts to man would have

Retiring, in March, 1797, from office, he was not permitted long to enjoy his serene repose at Mount Vernon, for in July, 1798, he was again nominated commander-in-chief of the American armies, in view of expected war with France, and at once proceeded to the work of creating the first national army and outting it in effective condition. No war fol owed, however, through the sober second thought of the French Directory, and Wash ngton, who had not yet been compelled to eave his home, was permitted to enjoy his

Alas, for only a brief season, for on Decen ber 12th, 1799, taking a severe cold in riding out over his farms, he grew gradually on the 13th ill, and after only a few hours' real sick less, the strong man slept the sleep of death, dying late on the evening of the 14th, the symptoms closely indicating what is now known as the dreaded diptheria.

Vials of Wrath:

THE GRAVE BETWEEN THEM

BY MRS. MARY REED CROWELL, AUTHOR OF "TWO GIRLS' LIVES," "LOVE-BLIND," "OATH-BOUND," "BARBARA'S FATE," ETC., ETC.

> CHAPTER XXXII. THE NEW LIFE.

IF Mrs. Argelyne had been charmed upon the first forming of Ethel's acquaintance, the admiration deepened and grew into the fond-est regard, as the days went on, and she noted the quiet, high-bred ways, the elegant selfpossession of manner, the gentleness, spirited ness and delicacy of her disposition.

She found, too, that Ethel was well educa ted; that she played almost perfectly, and could sing with a tender, pathetic voice that instinctively made one listen in silent admira tion. Her beauty, too, developed under the tender care Mrs. Argelyne bestowed upon her; not that she had been ever aught else but won-drously fair, but her late troubles had impaired it somewhat; so that when her cheeks los their waxen pallor, and assumed their wonted tender paleness, and the heavy black circles disappeared from under her eyes, and into her steps came the old, graceful springiness, Mrs. Argelyne was enchanted, and congratulated herself daily on the good fortune that had brought Ethel to her roof.

For the first few days, Mrs. Argelyne had stubbernly refused to make any business arrangements with Ethel; and the girl was so tired, so thankful for the repose that she did not urge it. But, when a fortnight had gone Mrs. Argelyne found that under all Ethel's sweetness and gentleness was a decision of character not to be trifled with.

"I cannot think of being a loiterer in the world, Mrs. Argelyne, nor would I respect my-self if I allowed myself to remain a dependent on your kind bounty. I can and must earn my own living, and I would rather do it here than anywhere in the world."

And when Mrs. Argelyne listened to her pa-tient, firm words, she loved her the more, and "You are right, Ethel. You shall enter upon stated duties to-day, at a stated salary of six hundred dollars a year, payable quarterly

in advance." Ethel's face was tenderly radiant. A hundred and fifty dollars a quarter! it was munificently large. With no expenses, and the good stock of clothes on hand, together with her little hoard of cash, she felt rich, with a thankfulness that shone all over her face.

"Mrs. Argelyne! you are generous beyond my most sanguine expectations. How can I thank you?" Mrs. Argelyne laughed, softly.

"I fear you will recant when you learn what a host of duties I shall impose upon you. You will have to see that my rooms are cozy and tastefully arranged; you will have all my toilets to invent—and you know mourning is capable of so few originalities Then there will be my morning and evening hours to listen to reading and music; there will be

rounds of calls—both of which miseries I am disposed to make you share with me." Ethel took up the delightful list, and went on enthusiastically.

"You must not neglect to add my duties as hairdresser, and seamstress, and general maid. I am determined to earn my salary, dear Mrs.

Argelyne." She looked so frank, so brave, so earnest.

"And I assure you I am equally determined to get the worth of my money," returned Mrs. Argelyne, playfully; and so the contract was made, and Ethel commenced her duties that self-same evening, by reading to Mrs. Argelyne, after she had undressed, and was tucked in her dainty bed.

Life sped on feathery wings; Ethel's duties were those that a daughter might have per-formed for a mother; there were delightful people constantly visiting Mrs. Argelyne, although she went out comparatively little, so that Ethel had every opportunity of seeing the fashionable phase of society.

There were long, confidential talks, in which Ethel opened her heart freely to Mrs. Argelyne, receiving in turn friendly sympathy and womanly advice; and during which, Mrs. Argelyne learned that there was not the remotest idea of any feeling in Ethel's heart toward Leslie Verne, warmer than a frank, truthful friendship.

She learned that all of Ethel's affections had peen centered on her dead husband—or at least Ethel herself thought so, and expressed herself so very decidedly, even when in "the custom-ary events of time," the first keen edge of her grief wore off, and she took new, fresh interests in everything about her.

Her life was so happy. Mrs. Argelyne was the best of friends and counselors, who, while she never permitted Ethel to suspect there were plans afoot for her, still continually cheered and encouraged Leslie, and even fanned the flame of his love by her own tender compli-

He had changed considerably-Leslie had: and Ethel saw the change with a silent surprise and admiration, for his graver, more thoughtful ways tallied better with hers. His patient waiting now, his scathing disap-

pointment before, had left their marks upon nim-vain although he felt his love was, at times, even now. His love for Ethel was quiet, strong, undying; and it permeated his entire character, making it rich and fruitful in all the qualities which would help make a happier woman of the one he called his wife. He saw Ethel often, and in his heart he was sore and sick to learn she had no thought for

him beyond that of a true, sincere friend—that she still dwelt with unyielding fidelity upon the memory of her dead. Their frequent in terviews, when they utterly ignored the light, frivolous gossip most young people of their age would have indulged in—when they talked over Ethel's troubles, were full of unsatisfied misery to Leslie, that he never dreamed were fulfilling their mission in a manner most condueive to the end he always had in prospect But it was so: Ethel's free, frank memories and Leslie's cheery, unselfish sympathy were daily binding them in cords of regard and fervent friendship, that was the surest foundation for love to build upon-that united them in interest tenfold nearer and dearer than any other possible circumstances could have done. So the wheels of Time rolled slowly, evenly

on to Ethel, daily regaining her wonted cheer fulness, and hourly making herself more and more indispensable in her new home, her deep mourning dresses were gradually osing their unbroken somberness by means of dainty lavender ribbons, a white flower in her hair, and snowy frills of lace at her throat and wrists; while Leslie Verne, in all the brave, patient tenderness of waiting, silently watched and bided his time; while Frank Havel stock saw on Ida Wynne's finger the gleam of the diamond he had placed there in sign and seal of their engagement, and the bride-elect dreamed her girlish dreams, and enjoyed with a woman's pardonable vanity the *eclat* of her position; while Carleton Vincy planned, and schemed, and enjoyed the money Georgia Lexington had given him as the price of his lying silence and absence, while the pair at Tangle-wood drifted further and further apart into darker glooms and more dangerous chasms.

It was one of the curiosities of this life drama that involved so many destinies, that wounded so many existences, that each actor and his part was unknown to the one most ed. It was one of its odd peculiarities—this strange tendency to secrecy, that no one purposely caused, or could have hindered.

It was like wheels within wheels inclosed in a night of starless darkness; yet, the wheels went round and round with unerring precision, impelled by a force ho human power could withstand-a force, against which neither light nor darkness could avail; which would accomplish its work with tireless zeal, regardless of woman's tears, a strong man's silent moans; eareless of the breaking hearts that crushed surely, slowly under its relentless iron strength.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

THE FATEFUL NAME.

PREPARATIONS for Ida Wynne's approaching vedding were progressing rapidly, under her wn competent directions as well as Mrs. Lexngton's advice and suggestions.

At the first announcement of the engage nent Georgia had manifested her disapproval in her quiet, effective way, to Lexington, who had taken upon himself the responsibility of acquainting her with the fact. He knew it would not occasion her any particular satisfaction, owing to her prejudices against Frank Havelstock, which, of course, he repudiated

Full of misery as his life was, tortured by fires of anger, outraged pride, jealousy, and mad worship for the woman he regarded as so utterly unworthy; pitiful as was the condition of Georgia's inner life, desolate, blighted though the frequent misunderstandings had left her, yet outwardly, courtesy, dignity and attention marked their intercourse, so that at this time of approaching gayety consultations

and questions were of frequent occurrence Lexington and his wife had been to New York with Ida several times on shopping tours to Stewart's, and Lord & Taylor's, where were being made to order the magnificent trousseaux for the bride of Ethel Havelstock's husband.

On these occasions the groom elect had positively refused to accompany them, greatly to Ida's displeasure; and when he laughed and declared he was totally unequal to playing the role of assayer of point-laces and moire antiques, Ida believed him, despite her disappointment, little knowing that the true reason was he hardly felt bold enough, as yet, to trust to the chances of meeting his injured,

deserted wife face to face. At this time, while vigorous preparations were making in the feminine department of the household, Theodore Lexington had pre sented the necessary petition to the Legislature, then just convened at Albany, in which

name changed, for good reasons, which were name changed, for good reasons, which were stated, to John Lexington; and when, consequently, on account of the high social status of the family of Lexington, the change was speedily effected, there remained just enough time to get out the elaborate weddingcards for December 1st, at which time Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Lexington announced themselves "at home" to the five hundred people whom they honored with an invitation to the ceremony at 12 M., and the reception from 2 until 5.

It seemed strange at first, the change in Frank Havelstock's name; and Ida pouted considerably because her lover insisted upon her dropping the old and assuming the new name at once. He was very determined about it, and enforced the new regime with a quiet positiveness that commanded even Georgia's admiration.

So by the stroke of a pen Frank Havelstock disappeared from sound, and Mr. John Lexington, of Tanglewood, made his bow to the world as the proud, happy, fortunate possessor of Miss Ida Wynne's heart and hand.

He was jubilant, this man who did not be-lieve in eternal justice; who thought, because his path was so far unobstructed, there never would come dark, tortuous windings, which should lead him into positions of horror and danger, from which he could not return; who refused to believe that the coming night would bring storm-clouds and tempestuous gusts that would beat on his head, simply because in the morning of his venturesome wickedness there was calm and blue sky and sunshine.

The complete sinking of his identity so far as his name was concerned did not satisfy him, at least for the present. So he sacrificed his personal appearance, for a time, by shaving nis splendid mustache off, and his allowing a tuft of beard to grow on his chin. It impaired his looks to a considerable extent, and Ida cried more than once over his changed appearance; but her passionate exclamation more than repaid him for the sacrifice, for it assured him he had succeded in his attempt to foil any

possibly inquisitive person.
"If you knew how hideous you looked! Your own mother never would recognize you in that horrid way you have deformed your-self. I think it is too mean for anything when I was so proud of you and wanted all the

girls to see how handsome you were."

He comforted her with the assurance that his mustache should grow again, and then distracted her critical attention by offering to direct the envelopes containing the invitations.

They went to the library together, Ida hanging affectionately on his arm, and pouring

her light gossip ceaselessly in his ears.
"I don't know half of them—do you? But I don't care. I know my dress will attract the attention of strangers as well as friends. If nly you hadn't cut off your-

He interrupted her, coolly.
"No more of that, please. Where is the list Mrs. Lexington made out? Give it to me -there it is.'

Ida ran her eyes down the long, daintilywritten list, exclamations of delight or surprise or vexation escaping her as she com-

"If cousin Georgia isn't too bad. I particuarly requested that Nellie Myer should be asked, and her name 's not among the M's. There's only the Mordaunts and Wallace Muir's sisters, and Judge Merle's family. "Possibly Mrs. Lexington forgot Miss Nel-

Ida curled her lip. "She never forgets anything. Oh! the Courtland's are coming—isn't that—" "Invited, you mean," he interrupted,

amusedly. "Oh, they'll come, I know. Gustie Courtland wouldn't miss the opportunity of parading her diamonds for half the value of them. I do detest those Courtland girls."

"Very pretty, stylish young ladies, I understand. Have you any other exception to take to the list?" She went on again, critically.

"Mr. and Mrs. Ross, Dr. Sefton and family, the Tunisons (I hope Rolfe will come, he was a beau of mine once); then there is old Miss Urman, and the Upham's, and Mr. Verne. I won't have him. Fr—John! if Leslie Verne is coming to my wedding-I-I-won't be married." The name sounded in his ears like a doom.

He felt a quickened palsation of his heart, and then—laughed at Ida's energetic words. "Who is Leslie Verne? It seems to me I have heard the name before. What's the cause of ineligibility in his case?"

"Simply because I don't like him. He gave a grand reception at Meadowbrook, a year ago, and left me entirely out. He's a conago, and left he entrely out. He's a conceited, good-looking fellow, not very fond of ladies' society, and lives all alone at Meadow-brook, with a perfect retinue of servants—keeps up all the style of an English family of rank. But I am determined he sha'n't see me married. Give me a pencil. I'll cross it off and explain to cousin Georgia."

She drew the pencil heavily across the name, while her lover watched her curiously. "I don't envy Mr. Verne's estimation in

your opinion, my dear; it must have been a psychological effect that made me think I was connected with him, somehow, though at such wide variance."
"I don't think it could have been that."

Ida looked coolly in his eyes, feeling the superiority of her argument. "I am quite sure the reason you remembered Mr. Verne is that he was a very devoted suitor to a Miss Ethel Maryl-whom you admired so at the time.

She watched him intently; he knew such to be the case, and, as usual in times of pressing importance, he was perfectly master of the sit-

"And of whom you were unwarrantably ealous, little girl. Confess you were—as a bunishment for what has been proven so un-

The warm color rushed into Ida's cheeks. "I will confess, because I was awfully jealous of her. Don't you remember the day rode into the village and when we passed Mrs. Lawrence's you bowed and called her 'Miss Ethel?' I hated her then, because I thought she had won you. I didn't know you must have loved me then."

"You see how foolish you were, don't you? I certainly did admire Miss Maryl very much; out, when it comes to loving-why, my darling, you know where my preferences are.

Not a quaver of his voice, not a tremor of a nuscle, as he looked Ida Wynne in the eyes

"I know now, of course. But if you had suspected how I felt that day you went from Tanglewood and staid so long. The day after our ride—do you remember?"

It was the quintessence of mockery. That unconscious, guileless question. Did he remember! could he forget? and the memory of those days of his life that had been the best, the purest, the truest he ever had passed, surged such tiresome tours of shopping and the dreary | John Franklin Havelstock prayed to have his over him with terrific force. He felt a dimness in his eyes and a trembling in every limb as he realized that Ethel's influence was not yet gone from his heart. He drew the long list of names to him, almost savagely I might as well begin. Read them, Ida,

She leaned carelessly against his chair,

flushed and happy.
"Mrs. Argelyne. You don't know her, do you? Neither do I, and cousin Georgia told me she did not. But cousin Theo requested an invitation for her especially. She is a lady he met in Europe and whom he greatly admires for her culture and refinement. She moves in the most exclusive circles in New York, and very probably you and I will visit her, some day, cousin Theo says."
He wrote the name, all unconscious of its

fateful implication with his own. (To be continued—commenced in No. 298.)

JACK RABBIT,

The Prairie Sport:

THE WOLF CHILDREN OF THE LLAND ESTACADO. BY JOSEPH E. BADGER, JR.,

AUTHOR OF "OLD BULL'S-EYE," "YELLOV STONE JACK," "PACIFIC PETE," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER XIII. A LOVER ON THE TRAIL.

WITH heavy step and drooping head, a mustang toiled slowly through the dry, glistening sand. Its coat was rough and harsh with dried sweat and dust; its ears hung down, its tongue protruded like that of an exhausted

Its rider was not in much better case. He, too, bore traces of long and hard traveling, if not of positive suffering. His dress was disor-dered, his face haggard, a wild, hunted expression filled his eyes.

Suddenly his gaze became fixed, and he involuntarily tightened the reins, the willing mustang halting in his tracks. Before him, until now hidden by a jutting spur of rocks was a peculiar scene. Though fully a mile distant, every detail was distinctly visible in that rarified atmosphere.

A dozen dark shapes were moving to and fro, round and round a prostrate figure-the figure of a man lying upon the scorching sands near the edge of the rocky tract, still and motionless as though dead.

Nearer and nearer swooped the heavy-winged scavengers—the black vultures—their broad wings shadowing the body of the unfortunate, until one, bolder or more hungry than its mates, fairly settled upon the man's shoulders. A sharp cry broke from the traveler's lips as he saw the vulture hurriedly rise from its perch, and, with its mates, flap heavily away as though terrified. He saw the seeming corpse lift its arms and strike aimlessly around, then

sink back once more.

With a wild, strange hope mingled with dread, the rider urged his mustang forward. His progress was slow, and the winged scavengers, as though resolved not to be robbed their prey, settled down in a flock around the wretch, their sharp claws and powerful beaks quickly arousing the feeble spark of life, and the unhappy wretch fought desperately to de-

A well-aimed arrow pierced one of the vul tures through and through, and the traveler uttered a loud shout. With discordant cries and reluctant wings, the zopilotes abandoned the unequal contest.

Leaping from the saddle, the horseman stooped over the prostrate figure. Nearly naked, it was that of an Indian. From between his shoulders protruded the feathered shafts of two arrows. Other wounds were visible upon his side and broad breast, as though the arrows had been torn or cut out. the holes being rudely stopped with moss and

A cry of recognition broke from the young man's lips as the large, bloodshot eyes met his own, and it seemed as though the remembrance was mutual, though the dying man vainly tried to speak. Instantly the traveler's water-gourd was produced, and its last drops drained into Scant and tepid as was

the draught, it proved sufficient.
"Don Leon," huskily gasped the tiger-hunter; "I saved your life once-you made me a "I did-I promised to assist you if ever you

needed help."
"I claim it now—not for myself. My trail

is ended—I've struck my last tigre—thanks to the coward hands-but listen-

In broken yet intelligible sentences, the dying man told his story; how he had met Rosina and Pablo-though he knew not their names-of their meeting with Black Garote, and his vain attempt to escape with Rosina's message.

"She said—tell Don Felipe Raymon-That was enough. Leon Sandoval interrupted him with a sharp cry, his eagerness so great that he could scarce wait for the answer to his questions.

The tiger hunter had seen, even as he fell, bristling with arrows, the rude seizure of the brother and sister, and knew that the maiden's worst fears had been realized. For hours he lay as though dead, but finally recovered enough to drag himself along the hot sands, heading for the point of rocks described by Pablo, the counterpart of the one where they met Black Garote. "Save her-that's all-I ask," gasped the

tiger-hunter, his head falling back. The end of his earthly trail was reached.

Yet he had lived long enough to deliver Rosina's message.

Eager as he was to follow up the clue so strangely found, the young man restrained his impatience. Though, in common with all of race, the Spaniard had been taught to consider the "civilized Indians" as of less value than the beasts of the field, Sandoval made an exception in favor of the tiger-hunter, and could not abandon even his dead body to the

With some difficulty the corpse was lifted to the saddle and conveyed to the rocks. There, in a little hollow, the remains of the tiger-hunter were deposited, a pile of bowlders above the grave insuring it undisturbed repose.

Don Leon Sandoval was a far more important personage than the position he has been given in this chronicle would seem to indicate. The son of a wealthy haciendado—and a rico in his own right—he joined the buffalo-hunters, on probation, as it were. He it was of whom Rosina thought, during her wild race. his the face she expected to meet instead of that of Pablo. That they loved and were beloved, was no secret. Don Leon it was who left the wagon-train on the night of the storm; since that time he had been roving almost aimlessly through the desert, until, when hope was almost dead, he met with the faithful tiger-hunter, who lived just long enough to de-

Forgetting his own thirst and fatigue, Don Leon urged his jaded mustang on, following the broad, blood-stained trail left by the tigerhunter. He had no definite plan in view; only to reach the spot where his heart was held antive. He knew little of Black Garote, but that little was enough to proclaim him an ugly ustomer, particularly with the odds in his

Don Leon made but one halt on the way; at a little spring which gurgled from beneath a huge bowlder, surrounded by a little patch of succulent grass, very grateful to the hard-worked mustang, who greedily cropped while his master munched some tough tasajo.

The sun was low down in the west when Don Leon first caught sight of the rude carts, the dolorous screeching of which had guided him for an hour or more. The buffalo-hunters were just going into camp, and when satisfied of this, Don Leon concealed his horse among the rocks and stealthily crept forward, bearing bow and arrow, knife and lasso, the latter coiled around his body in such fashion as not to interfere with his movements.

Though an ardent lover, a bold and skillful Don Leon was still cool-headed and far-sighted enough to see that a single false move might be fatal to all concerned. cover was plenty, the danger of being discovered by some of the keen-eyed ciboleros when contrasted with the white rocks was such that it was full sunset before Don Leon gained a position within arrow-flight of the encamp-

His heart beat high as he distinguished the figure of Rosina, but the light quickly deepened in his eyes as he noted the self-possessed air of the huge half-breed, who was then giving his ultimatum, before sending his captive

While the buffalo-hunters were still engaged in eating, Don Leon made out the position occupied by Pablo, who was securely bound to one of the clumsy wooden wheels, in a sitting posture. His escape, unaided, was impossible ret a cool, skillful man might hope to gain his ide undiscovered under the cover of night. And while carefully marking out the best avenue of approach, Don Leon saw that the carreta to which Pablo was secured, contained several bows and sheafs of arrows, together with a rifle—the one captured with him.

Quiet at length fell over the encampment and Don Leon saw that the moment for action was come. Leaving his covert, he glided cautiously forward. He knew that only one sentinel had been placed, and that upon the opposite side of the arena, or toward the desert. Unless some of the sleeping hunters were aroused, he believed that after freeing Pablo, they could steal away with Rosina, unbserved.

With a coolness and patience which few men ean boast, Don Leon crawled nearer and near er the camp, lying flat upon his stomach and only advancing by inches while out in the moonlight. More than once he paused and remained motionless for minutes, as some one of the sleepers moved restlessly, or turned over.

But then, gaining the deeper shadow, he could work more rapidly, and was soon close beside the prisoner. For a moment he hesitated, fearful that Pablo would betray all by some sound or outcry, but then he made out the youth's eyes gazing keenly upon him.
"Hist—'tis I—Leon," he cautiously whisper-

d, as he applied his knife to the thongs. "For the Virgin's sake, be cautious!"

At any other moment, one or other of the train could scarcely have escaped seeing the dim, phantom figure which glided past the carreta, toward the skin lodge. As it was, the shadow faded away in the gloom, unobserved. "Here—arm yourself," muttered Don Leon, as Pablo stretched his arms, free of the

thongs. At that moment came the hoarse, gurgling shout of the death stricken sentinel—the shrill war-whoop of the desert warriors-the piercing scream from the skin lodge; all mingling with the snorting of the terrified animals and the confused cries of the half-sleeping buffalo-

CHAPTER XIV.

A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, For a moment the young men were fairly bewildered, and stood motionless, still grasping the weapons they had appropriated from the carreta. Not but that they knew what had occurred; they had both of them heard the carreta. Pawnee war cry before, but the interruption coming just as they were beginning to congratulate themselves upon the success of their ooldness, momentarily stunned and confused

Don Leon was the first to recover, and clutching Pablo by the wrist, he cried: "Keep close to me-to the tent. If we do

ot get her off now, all is lost!" With these words, the young cibolero darted forward and sprung heavily against the doorflap, tearing it loose and carrying it with him to the ground with almost stunning violence, Pablo followed close upon his heels, and for a moment or two there was rare confusion within the lodge.

Fortunately for our friends, the death-yell of the sentinel had disarranged the plans of the Pawnees, or else their hopes had not gone beyond stampeding the stock of the buffalo-hunters, since they made no regular charge into camp, contenting themselves with yelling in hideous concert and discharging their arrows from under cover of the bowlders. Emboldened by this, the attacked gradually advanced nearer the edge of the desert, plying their weapons as well as the gloom would permit.

Favored by these circumstances, Don Leon and Pablo were not noticed as they crossed the open space, were not heard as they blundered into the tent, though a sharp cry of joy broke from the lover's lips as his outstretched hand came in contact with a human face, as he strove to rise.

A terrible fear seized his heart as he lifted the limp, nerveless form in his trembling arms, lest his loved one was dead. Her lips were warm, as he touched them, and he even fancied that he could feel her heart throb faintly in answer to his own as he pressed the dear form to his breast.

"She has only fainted," he whispered, hoarsely, to Pablo. "Lead the way out quick! for the love of the Holy Mother!"

As they left the lodge, several dark figures dodging along among the bowlders bade them beware how they left the shade for the moonlighted stretch, unless they wished to court discovery. All his hunter instincts aroused, Pablo turned and glided away through the shadows, keeping close to the rocky wall, thinking only of getting beyond sight and ear-

shot of the camp as quickly as possible.

The hearts of the young men beat painfully as the clamor from beyond the camp abruptly ended. Was the fight-if such it could be called-over, and if so, which party had proved victorious?

that filled her bosom. meak. The next moment, a hoarse, bellowing cry of furious rage filled the little valley with its echoes. A grating curse passed the tight-clenched teeth of Don Leon. He knew that any more!"

the truth, or-"

the truth had been discovered by Black Garote, who would spare no efforts to recapture his

"On, Pablo!" he muttered, sternly. "Keep in the shade, and if they overtake us, remember that we are fighting for more than life for your sister's honor!"

Burdened as he was, Don Leon kept pace with the young buffalo-hunter. Scrambling over or around the numerous bowlders, they press ed on through the deep shadow, taking little heed to their course, hearing only the angry shouts and curses of the enraged cibolero, to which were now joined the shrill yells of the savages. Had the two bodies, so recently seeking each other's blood, combined? If not then the fight had been renewed, and had turned against the buffalo-hunters, since the wild sounds were coming up the valley, right in the wake of the fugitives.

Don Leon paused for a moment, as if to assure himself of this fact, then spoke to Pablo. "We must hide and let them pass by, then we can double and reach my horse. Watch

for a covert." Scarce another hundred yards had been tra versed, when the young cibolero sharply plucked Don Leon's sleeve and turned abruptly to the left, entering what seemed to be a deep, narrow pass through the high, rocky hills. The entrance was tolerably well screened by oushes, but the keen eye of the young hunter had caught sight of the divided rocks above, and reason told him the rest.

The fugitives only entered the defile for a few yards, then Don Leon resigned his charge for the first time, stealing back to the entrance with ready bow. The angry yells and shouts from down the valley came nearer, and he could tell that the buffalo-hunters were sullenly retreating before the savages, yet contesting

every foot of the ground. "If they only keep it up!" he muttered, un-easily, glancing above his head, where the di-

vided rocks showed so plainly. There was little room for choice either way Were the hunters pressed too hard, might they not seek refuge in the pass, where they could make a stout defense against ten times their number? Again, were the savages to abandon the fight, it was scarcely probable that Black Garote would submit to the loss of his captives without a thorough and systematic search.

Don Leon was not long kept in suspense When nearly opposite the cut he heard the noarse voice of Black Garote ordering his men to fall back into the opening, and only pausing long enough to catch a glimpse of the dark figures, Don Leon hastened back to Pablo, a curse upon his lips, a disagreeable foreboding

busy at his heart. "The dogs are coming in here," he mut-tered, with a sign for Pablo to be cautious. 'Pick your way with care—a misstep might be fatal. If they once suspect our presence here they will have us foul."

"They might run us down, but some of them wouldn't live long enough to crow over

us," muttered the youth. A few moments later the increased clamor -the fiercer shouts and more vindictive yells -that came along the defile, told the fugitives that the buffalo-hunters were stoutly defend

ing the entrance. "Make haste, Pablo," grated Don Leon. 'Now is our time"-

"I would, only-the way is blocked up!" gasped Pablo. For a moment Sandoval stood in silent horror, then gently lowering his burden, he sprung

forward. But all was in vain. The defile abruptly ended in a high, almost perfectly smooth wall. They were in a trap—the pass was nothing more than a pocket! They realized the full force of their discov-

They could retreat no further. Were the buffalo-hunters driven in by the savages the fugitives could only hope to escape through desperate fighting, as the defile narrowed down until two persons could not pass abreast. Were the whites victorious they would hardly omit searching such an apparently snug hiding

When convinced that further retreat was cut off, the comrades selected a spot, as well as possible amid the intense gloom, from whence they could hold at bay any enemy from without, and in low whispers discussed their chances of ultimate escape.

The cries and shouts from the mouth of the pocket had died away, and all was intensely, almost oppressively still. Then, for the first time since they left the encampment, a faint sound came from the captive for whom they dared so much.

In an instant Don Leon was by her side, gently calling her by name; assuring her that all was well. For a few moments there was no answer. She lay quiet in his arms, suffering his eager lips to dwell upon hers, as her consciousness gradually returned and her

memory grew stronger. "Rosina, darling, speak to me—tell me that you know me—your Leon," he murmured, his cheek pressed to hers.

"Who Rosina? me Paquita," came the quick reply, as the lithe form suddenly glided out of his arms. "Who-oh! me know now! Curse Rosina-me kill her, dead, dead, two, ree times over!"

The tones were little less musical than those Don Leon had expected to hear—but the words He started back in utter astonishment, for the moment, unable to realize the terrible mistake

Fortunately the woman had not yet comprehended the whole truth, else she might easily have escaped.

"Who you men? what you make wid me here?" cried the woman, her voice raising higher and more shrill as her excitement in creased, until there was danger of her being heard by the enemy without. "What dis place-where dat woman-"

Pablo was the first to recover his senses, and springing forward he grasped the Indian woman, one hand firmly clasping her lips, just in time to stifle a loud shriek.

"Be silent-raise your voice above a whisper and by all the saints I'll kill you, woman or no woman!" he muttered, sternly, as his choking grip gradually relaxed.

The woman seemed cowed and sunk to the ground with a low whimper. Had there been light, had she understood the whole situation, she would have acted differently. But it was all a mystery to her. The last she remembered was being in the tent, and now-where

was she? Don Leon drew closer to her, and spoke in a harsh, strained voice: "There was a lady in the tent where we

found you. What has become of her? Speak

"Yes; me know," hissed Paquita, her superstitious fear vanishing before the mad jealousy "She white-face baby -she got love-weed in her mouth-when she Garote got eyes only for her. He forget Paquita-tell white woman he love her -mus' hab her for him wife! He say dis, an' me hear him, but he nebber speak her so "What do you mean—what have you done?" gasped Pablo. "If you have dared to hurt her—"

"She no hurt any more," was the cold reply. "Me make her go die—me wait till all still, all sleep, den me creep to lodge—me git

inside, take knife, an'—"
"You killed her—don't say that," faltered Don Leon, his strong frame weak and trembling as an infant.

"Me creep up so-she sleepin'-me stick ner wid knife, hard as me kin-

Pablo, with a groan of horror, sprung upon he exultant woman, and would have speedily avenged his sister, only for the prompt inter-ference of Sandoval. During the momentary truggle, Paquita slipped past them and glided rapidly through the darkness. The comrades heard her steps, but searched for her in vain. A shrill, peculiar whistle from near the mouth of the pocket, closely followed by a oud shout, told them that Paquita had suc-

eeded in rejoining her friends. "Only for you her tongue would never have betrayed us," muttered Pablo, gloomily.

"She was a woman—though may God's curse rest forever upon her and hers if harm has come to our angel!"

"Maybe she lied-maybe Rosina is still alive. She was insensible when we found her—"
"I don't understand it—and we are pinned

up here, unable to do anything but waitwait! when every moment seems a life-time of misery—oh, God!"

Pablo made no reply. He, too, felt the full force of their disagreeable situation. Beyond a doubt the enemy knew all now, and would be on the alert, so that an attempt to leave the pocket would be fatal. Not that life seemed so very dear to them now, but if for nothing

else, they wished to live for vengeance.

Hour after hour rolled wearily on as they ept watch through the darkness, their weapons ready for use, but still no sign or sound of the enemy. Had they retreated? That was not probable, even if the savages had fled before. More likely they were lying in wait, hoping for their victims to walk blindly into

And so through the weary night, until the sky grew grayer and the dim light of morning dawned upon them. Pale and haggard, yet sternly resolved, they lay behind a long bowlder, peering down the defile. Presently Don Leon touched Pablo with his foot, and nodded significantly. His keen eye had detected a faint movement at some distance; the rustling of a bush. In breathless silence they awaited the result as moment after moment flew by.

Then-a dark, ugly face peered out from the leafy covert, to be covered instantly with their weapons.

> CHAPTER XV. "CHECK!

JACK RABBIT heard the words of the prophetess, startling though they were, without a sign that could have betrayed her to the eager, angry eyes of the Mad Chief. He bowed his head to receive the scarf, then rode slowly back

to the exultant borderer, Tony Chew.

During the rest of the visit Jack was unusually quiet. His thoughts were busy with the problems that grew more and more difficult every hour, until the solution seemed far be-

yond his ken. Until now he had been willing to wait, hopng that some circumstance would turn up by which the crisis could be delayed until the four days stipulated for by Keoxa had passed. But now that the hour had been set, that every-thing had been arranged for the feast of blood he realized to the full what an almost impossi-

ble task he had taken upon himself. Remember the position of the buffalo-hunters; that they were outnumbered two to one by the Pawnees, who held the entrance to the trap, and without whose permission no one could leave the circular valley. Add to this, the buffalo-hunters seemed to place the utmost confidence in their dusky hosts, mingling with them for the most part almost totally unarmed, while Jack Rabbit, as a stranger and an American, was regarded with coldness, if not with suspicion. Would they even listen, if warned? He doubted.

"I'd show my good sense by riding away and washing my hands of the whole thing," he muttered, disgustedly.

Disgusted with the farce, Jack rode back to the valley, and picketing out his horse, strolled moodily around the rocky barrier, while Tony Chew kept close at his heels.

As he came opposite the crevice in the wall, Jack's face brightened, and entering, he closely inspected the "pocket." Though plainly disappointed in finding it "no thoroughfare," he evidently considered the discovery of some importance.

"We could play 'em a pretty stiff game from here, old man Tony. And yet—is it worth the powder? We can't open the eyes of those fools, and will only get barbered ourselves without doing any good-by staying Now, I'm not more of a coward than here. most men, but, honestly, I don't fancy the idea of getting rubbed out for a parcel of

"You have forgotten what I told you, then?" slowly spelled the dumb man.

"That my whole future depended upon our joining this train; good enough as far as it goes, but I don't like to work in the dark," muttered Jack, discontentedly.
"You must trust me in this," was the quick

reply. "If all goes well I don't think you will repent. If the worst comes-well, they say that all things are made clear after death, and you will know, then, whether I was right or wrong. Only-mark my words. If you let a chance slip you of preserving these people, you will never forgive yourself, though you live to twice my age.'

"You're a regular oracle, old man Tony, and just about as easily understood. How-ever, for once you shall have your own way. We'll save these people—though just how puzzles me to guess—whether they will or no. Does that satisfy you?"

"There are few things you can do that wouldn't please me, dear boy," spelled Chew, a look of more than common love filling his "But I am glad that you trust me in this. You shall know all in time-but not now. We will need all our nerve, I fear, before we see our way clear."
"It's all a muddle to me. We can't hope to

back the crowd down again-if we save our own hair 'twill be a wonder." 'We must work through her," replied Tony.

'Since she has told you so much, she'll tell more. We must get the whole plan from her, then we'll mark out the part we are to play. You have a good lead there, if you only work it right. Ha! speak of the-'

'Angel-just so, old man Tony, you're growing gallant in your old age," laughed Jack, yet with a flushed countenance, as they caught a glimpse of Mini Lusa passing before the mouth of the pocket. "Don't lose a moment—learn all you can.

anything, will keep him in play until you're through.

Scarce waiting to read the last word, Jack Rabbit left the cut and followed the trim figure of the Prophetess, who, as though ignorant of his proximity, glided rapidly on until the Pawnee lodges were nearly hidden behind the rocks. Then pausing, she turned and confronted Jack Rabbit.

The young borderer saw something in her face that checked the gallant speech he had already prepared, something that told him this interview, though purposely sought by her, had other and sterner matters to deal with.
"You are prompt," she said, quickly. "I
am glad of it. There is little time for either

of us to waste." "My friend was right, then, when he said

that you wished to see me?"
"Yes. I have been watching my chance, all day. But—you understood my words out yonder?"

"That I am in danger here—yes. But—I know it sounds rude—are you sure there is no mistake?" "Sure-listen. You know that the sun will set to-night; I know, just as surely, that when the sun rises to-morrow morning, its light will

your friends, unless you take my advice and flee while you can," earnestly declared Mini "If we were all marked for such a death. your friends would not let me pass beyond

shine down upon the dead bodies of you and

their lines, even if I would " "They would not dare attempt to stop you while it is light, for fear of putting the buffalo-hunters upon their guard. You can escape You can escape

now, but after sunset 'twill be too late.' 'Wouldn't it look cowardly for us to desert these people, without even warning them of their danger? Would you advise a friend to do this?"

"Under the circumstances, yes. It is beyond your power to save them—by remaining you only add two more lives to the massacre. But enough. I have warned you for the last time. It is for you to decide now whether you will flee and live, remain and die."

"One moment, please. I can't find words to thank you for your kindness, now, but some day, if we both live, I can and will. Of this be sure, whether I live through to-night or die before the sun rises again, I can never forget you while life lasts."

"Fly, then—you are too—too young to die," faltered the maiden, shrinking back, her eyes drooping, her face suffused beneath his ardent

"Life is sweet-dearer now than when I first came here—but enough. This is no time for—for such thoughts. One more favor, When is the time set, what is the signal to be?"

First there is to be a feast, afterward a dance. There is one point in the dance—our war dance-where all the braves suddenly pause and bend their bows. To-night they will each one select a living target. He—my father—will arise and shake his lance, uttering his war-cry. That will be the signal," uttered Mini Lusa, in a low, monotonous tone, like that of a subject under magnetic influence.

"Thank you-be sure, whatever may happen, than I am very grateful—" began Jack, but with a low, inarticulate cry, Mini Lusa turned and darted away, leaving the young borderer staring after her in open-mouthed

astonishment. The remainder of the day passed away quietly. To the superficial observer the two parties would have appeared the best of Even Raymon was light-hearted and friends. joyous, for a scout had come in, bearing tid-ings of his two children. Their trail had been struck, and from that fact it was plain that they had outlived the perils of the storm. Immediately sending back word, the Pawnees

had taken up the trail, promising soon to re turn with the young couple.
Whatever else they had decided upon, the two borderers had evidently resolved to see the play out, since they made no effort to

The sun sunk to rest, and the preparations for the great feast were concluded. The palefaces, as a rule, partook heartily, but the Indians, for a wonder, when there was a chance for gorging themselves, ate but sparingly. As the Pawnee leader rather anxiously explained to the unsuspicious Raymon, the braves

were reserving themselves for the dance. Huge bonfires were built. The whites were seated in a group under the full glow. yond them the ground was prepared for the dance. A little to one side, a rude sort of throne was raised, affording seats for the Mad Chief and Mini Lusa.

Jack and Tony were with the other whites, like them, to all appearance unarmed. So were the Pawnees, though their weapons were piled near, ready for the last dance—the dance of death All unsuspicious of the impending peril, the buffalo-hunters, their wives and children, gayly applauded the active braves as they

With significant glances, Jack and Tony drew near the rude throne, as the Pawnees armed themselves. A suspicious glance greeted them, but Jack. with admirable coolness, began complimenting the chief upon the spectacle as the fated

glided to and fro to the monotonous music.

dance was begun. "It makes me nervous, though," laughed Jack, "ever since my experience with the Kiowas. It came about in this way. A party of us mountain men, made a treaty with Blue Bull, and he invited us to a feast. Only our leader suspected anything wrong, and he dared not tell us for fear of being laughed at and thought timid. After the feast there was a dance. The weather was hot, and we soon cast aside our weapons and extra clothing, the better to enjoy the sport. You can hear

what I say?" The chief nodded, though with an uneasy air, his hand nervously grasping the spear which was planted beside him. What was the meaning of this story? was it only a coincidence?

"We didn't know it then, but we learned afterward, just how it all had been arranged. At a certain point in the dance Blue Bull was to arise and utter his war-cry, when his braves were to attack us-ha! you are ill?"

The chief shook his head, with an effort controlling his emotion. He saw that the critical moment was at hand. Only two more changes then he must give the signal. "You started so I feared you were not feeling well. But my story. Blue Bull had a daughter, dear to him as the apple of his eye.

Our chief knew this, and at the right moment he seized her-just as my friend does now! Jack grasped the chief's arm, his revolver at his breast, though hidden from the Pawnees, a movement strictly followed by Tony. kill you both!" hissed Jack, in tones which

could not be mistaken. And the Pawnees were awaiting the signal. (To be continued—commenced in No. 306.) I'll keep watch, and if the old man suspects



Happy Harry, THE WILD BOY OF THE WOODS

The Pirates of the Northern Lakes.

BY OLL COOMES, AUTHOR OF "IDAHO TOM," "DAKOTA DAN,"
"BOWIE-KNIFE BEN," "OLD HURRICANE," "HAWKEYE HARRY," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE CABIN CONFLICT. HARRY glanced around the room, an inward terror taking possession of him for a moment A fire was burning on the great stone hearth, and some meat was broiling on a heap of coals. To him it was evident that the men had taken po session of the cabin and were helping themselves. But, where was old Davy? As he asked himself the question his eyes caught sight of a little pool of blood upon the floor. He also saw a track of blood leading from the pool across the floor into one corner where there was a heap of straw and blankets used by the old trapper as a bed. There was a suspicious look about this heap, and as he eyed it closely the blood was almost frozen in his veins by sight of a bloody, moccasined foot protruding from the pile of blankets. It told a fearful tale; it was Davy's foot without a doubt! Those human flends had murdered the old trapper and concealed his body there in the

"You needn't stare around here, you dashed young rascal, tryin' to come innocence on me," burst from Mucklewee's lips. "It's me— the veritable ole Billy Mucklewee. You needn't think that you and that durned, or'nery, big dog of your'n can outwit, outrun, outfight No, sir-ee; I'd an ijee you'd cut out this way, and so I took wings and let out, too. You and your little elephant of a pup'll not slip me again. You're caged, my son, and you might as well drap your feathers."
"Murderer!" hissed the youth, with all the

loathing scorn that he could throw into the words, "you ought to be quartered and fed to the wolves! You have murdered Davy Darrett, a harmless old trapper."

Involuntarily the murderer glanced toward the heap in the corner around which Belshazzar

was sniffing inquisitively.
"Nobody'll miss him," replied the wretch, seeing that the boy had discovered his bloody crime; "and to cut matters short and end this talk, I'll tumble that old dog over by him, and he drew a pistol and cocked it. But, be fore he could fire, Happy Harry sprung behind the villain, and jumping on his back, clasped his arms around his neek so tightly that he was choked to the floor.

"Take 'em, Bell!" cried the lad, and the next instant the dog sprung upon the soldier.
"Into 'em, Harry!—sick 'em, Belshazzar-

give 'em goss—rack it to 'em, the bloody hellyons! Yoop! hurrah, for here's ole Davy good as a dozen dead men yit! Lap it to 'em oys, and I'll lend a helpin' hand—hurrah for Hail Columbus!

Covered with blood and suffering with a number of severe wounds, old Davy Darrett had sprung from the heap in the corner and hastened to assist his young friend and Bel-

Harry clung to Bill's neck like a monkey to a limb, and the old reprobate failing to dis-lodge him by rolling upon him, drew his second pistol, and was about to fire back over his shoulder into the boy's face when Davy came to the rescue. He struck the pistol from the villain's hand, and then dealt him a furious kick in the ribs that doubled him up like a twisted limb.

With a howling imprecation Mucklewee strove to spring to his feet, but before he could rise the trapper snatched up the villain's pistol

and shot him dead! Then over the fallen body, Davy Darrett ex-

tended his hand, saying:
"Shake, Harry, shake! God bless your

"Great hornits, Davy! I thought you were dead," replied the lad, extending his hand.

"I war mortal nigh it, and thought I'd play possum like you are in the habit of doing; but, Harry, for God's sake don't let that dog chaw that Englisher any more! The man's deader'n thunder, now. Call him off, Harry, call him

Harry called his dog away from the really dead soldier; then, white almost as a sheet, he turned to Davy and said:

'This is awful, awful business, Davy. It almost makes me sick at heart to think become hunters of men, and butcher and kill one another.'

"You're entirely too tender-hearted, Harry my boy," replied Davy. "I don't see how you get along as well as you do. But then you'll git over this by'm'by. It's natural for a youngster to have a soft heart. I like to see a soft, kind and gentle heart when the right time comes, but then I want to see it stiffen and brace up when courage and firmness is wanted. You've that kind of a heart, boy; know you. Brave are you when bravery required; gentle and kind when gentleness and kindness is wanted. You must git over feeling bad about these two villains unless you're

afeard their death will make times dull. "I've had it lively for the past week, friend Davy," Harry announced, "and I must say that that dead wretch lying there has been the cause of a good share of it all. But, Davy, do you know a regular ole war with England is

"That tells me so," and he pointed to the

dead soldier. "And do you know that a big army of redcoats have crossed the frontier and are marching down this way?"

"Didn't know that, Harry." "It's true, it is, for a startlin' fact; I camped with 'em last night by their earnest request enforced with a loaded musket. They'll be hereaways about to-morrow noon, and maybe

sooner, for I left them fellers at camp." "Jewhillikins! you don't say, Harry?" "I do, for a downright fact, Davy. I come

by to tell you." 'Come by? whar ye goin'?"

"To general head-quarters of the American army in the north-west, which is at Detroit. I have a message, and the whole plans of the English general's proposed campaign, which I captured from a British major t'other morn-

"You don't say you have these things, do you? Why, if that's so, it'll bu'st the Britishers' calculations all to smash. Gracious! yes, you want to get that news to Hull, and it 'll he the makin' of you. You're a trump, boy, and ort to be made a gineral or a govenir when you grow bigger. I'd walk a thousand miles to vote for you, Harry.'

"Davy, are you goin' with me? or will you

here to lose, and everything to gain. Yes, Sir Harry, I'll shoulder rifle and peg out for tall timber with you. I want to take a hand in this war, for I never expect to see another

"I will be pleased to have your company, Davy; and I'd suggest that we get away as soon as possible, for other enemies may be near. But before we go, me and Belshazzar wants something to eat, if you've anything in your palace of the kind. We've fasted for a week, it seems like."

"Anything to eat? Why, just look thar, br'ilin' on them coals. My jolly, genial guests put me to bed and then went in on their nervous system. But, ah me! how very un-cartain is life. Now thar they lay, and here I stand. Yes, Harry, we'll have a rousin' old supper, then set sail. Fust, let us drag these poor dead devils aside and cover 'em up; then, while I'm washin' up and puttin' on some clean buck-skin you amuse yerself, the best you

can."
"I'll select a rifle from among our enemies' effects, as I was relieved of mine at the British camp last night."

"Do so, Harry—go ahead, make yerself right to home—indulge freely, partake of whatever pleaseth your fancy—be reckless as you please, for this is our last hour, p'r'aps, at

the palace of ole Davy Darrett."

Harry examined the weapons of the soldier and Mucklewee, and, to his happy surprise, found the gun and accouterments that he had been compelled to leave in Brock's camp. Mucklewee had substituted the elegant new rifle for his old flint-lock musket, little dreaming what a short time he was to possess it.

Old Davy soon washed the blood from his

person and attired himself in a clean suit of buckskin from head to foot; then he set about preparing supper. This required but a short time, when they sat down and ate heartily.

When the meal had been finished some of the remnants were stowed away in a leather game-bag for future need, then the two took their departure for Detroit, Davy bidding farewell to the cabin as though it were an old time-honored friend.

It was dark by this time, at least it seemed so to our friends when they first plunged out into the woods. The wilderness was droning forth its monotonous song; but the sky was clear and starry, and the air cool and fragrant with the odors of the wildwood.

The two had journeyed but a short distance when the whinny of a horse suddenly broke through the woods. They came to a halt and listened. Not far away they could hear a sound, like a horse impatiently pawing the earth, mingled with the clinking of ring-bits and stirrups. Davy pressed his ear to the earth and listened long and intently, but could make out nothing further than the sounds indi-

"By hornits!" exclaimed Harry, as a thought

occurred to him. "Now what, Happy?" questioned Davy.
"I hadn't thought of that before."

"Of what?" "Of Mucklewee and the soldier havin' horses

concealed near your cabin."
"You don't know yit that such is the case." "No, but then it's possible. That noise is made by a horse pawing the ground and he must be hitched in there. Come along, and

let us inwestigate the matter anyhow."

They crept softly forward and that pounding upon the earth ceased as they advanced, and was followed by a snorting, sniffling

"Just as I told you, Davy," suddenly burst from Harry's lips; "here's two horses all saddled and bridled for us. Mount, Davy, and we'll ride down to Detroit; we will, for a square fact. Whoa, Prince! easy, now, ole steed," and he approached one of the restless animals and began caressing it. In a moment he had quieted its fears, then he untied it, and with but little difficulty mounted into the

Old Davy's horse was a little fractious, and as the old borderman had not been upon a self somewhat awkwardly. With some diffi-culty, however, he finally got into the saddle, and then they resumed their journey.

Happy Harry could not refrain from an occasional outburst of merriment at the ludicrous figure of old Davy, doubled up and reeling to and fro on the animal's back like a

monkey in a circus. "Blast it, boy, why do you laff at me! A feller can't help gittin' scar—sick, I mean, on account of the vessel's motion. Jist wait till I catch the hoss's step, and then I'll sway edzactly right every time

"You're top heavy, Davy; you are, for a "Ah, my boy! if you'd clumped around on foot as old Davy, you'd be top-heavy, too, under sich circumstances as these. But, never mind; I'll soon git ballasted, and then I'll show you a thing or two on hoss-back. It's not my fault that I'm reelin' around here; it's the hoss's fault; he won't walk square under me,

that's what's the matter." "You are like Jerry Jones when he got drunk and fell down. It wasn't on his ac count nor the liquor's, oh no, that he fell. He said that the earth was like an old wagonwheel, and had lost its disk and got to wobblin' on its axis, and of course he couldn't

keep his footin'."
"Well, Jerry wasn't fur from right," repeated Davy, affecting justification for his own awkward horsemanship.

They rode on as fast as the nature of the

forest would admit, and about midnight struck the head-waters of a little creek flowing in a south-easterly course toward the Huron

"Do you know what stream this is, Davy?" Happy Harry questioned.

"It's Brownstown creek," replied the traper. "It's 'bout twenty miles to its confluence with the Huron river, then it's twenty or thirty miles from there to Detroit. 'Can't we reach the fort without followin'

the creek and river?"
"We can, yes; but then as it is night and the way uncertain and dangerous, we'll make time to stick to the water-courses as guides. "All right, Davy; as you say," and they

kept on down the stream. They journeyed on until daylight, when they rode into the creek and watered their animals, then selected a grassy spot, drew rein and dismounted, to allow the animals to rest and graze awhile.

While reclining under a tree and partaking of the remnants of their supper, they were suddenly started by the report of fire-arms far down the creek. The firing was sharp and vigorous for several minutes, then it

"Something wrong down that way, Harry," declared Davy, with a dubious shake of the head; "surely the British haven't got in ahead

of us and been attacked by our sojers.' "Stay here?—stay here and git gobbled by "Impossible; the army could not have the British? Nary stay; I'll shoulder my old moved so rapidly with their heavy guns and rifle and peg out with you. I've not much baggage-wagons. It may, however, be a de-

tachment of cavalry sent out in advance of the main column to reconnoiter. Or it may be a skrimmage atween the Americans and a at the earliest moment possible.

band of Injins."
"We can soon find out by mountin' our critters and joggin' 'em friskily down that

"And we might jog into an ambuscade of Injins, too. A feller can't be too keerful, Davy, these war times. An Injin or Britisher is just liable to hop out of a bush as a wolf or deer, and we've got to feel carefully along." "You know your bisness, so go ahead, just

as you think proper."

They finished their breakfast, mounted their animals and rode on down the creek. The imprint of horses' hoofs in the yielding earth suddenly arrested their attention; and upon careful examination of the ground they found that a large body of horses had passed down the stream. They also examined the tracks and found that they had been made by ironshod hoofs. They found such a material dif ference in the shape of the shoe and that of the animals they rode, that they were led to believe a party of American horsemen had gone down the creek that morning. If so, they had fallen in with a band of savages, which accounted for the firing.
"What do you still counsel, Harry?" asked

Davy; "had we better keep on down the creek, or bend off to the right a leetle?"

"Keep right on down the Brownstown. We may fall in with a party of friends, and be able to make ourselves useful."

"Just as you say, Harry. I'm in for anything that'll not disgrace the American eagle. Anything that'll shed glory on old Cumby, I'm

They pushed carefully on, and finally entered an opening in the forest of perhaps forty acres in area. On the opposite side of this clearing the keen eyes of our friend caught sight of something fluttering in the air above a clump of bushes. It required not a second glance to tell him what it was.

A low, suppressed cry of delight burst from Harry's lips, while old Davy Darrett swung his cap aloft and shouted/at the top of his

powerful lungs:

"Hurrah for the star-sprangled banner! the
American eagle! and Hail Columbus, happy

The sight of their country's flag waving so gracefully in the bright, morning sun, filled their breasts with renewed spirit and enthusiasm; and giving their animals the reins, they

Although they could see no one yet, they knew that beneath the folds of the flag they would be greeted by friends and American patriots with

"Freedom's soil beneath their feet, And freedom's banner waving o'er them."

CHAPTER XXIX.

THE OLD BORDERMAN'S TEST.

As Happy Harry and old Davy continued to advance toward the camp, a man, in the uni-form of a captain of the United States army, rode out of the woods and halted them. "Who comes there?" he demanded, in a sten

torian voice. "Two doggone good American chaps," was old Davy's response. "I am ole David Dar-rett, hunter and trapper, and this 'ere fractional part of a man at my side is Happy Harry, the Wild Boy of the Woods."

"Advance, then," responded the officer. "You will report at once to Major Van Horne.

The two rode forward and were conducted into the timber where nearly two hundred mounted infantry were temporarily encamped They were ordered to dismount at the edge of the camp, and while two men took charge of their animals, the captain conducted them to the commandant, whose quarters were under a low, branching tree.

Major Van Horne received them kindly. He knew them both by reputation, and so entertained no doubts of their loyalty. After having passed the usual compliments, the officer

"What news have you from the north-

"Nothin' good, major," replied Harry. "General Brock, with a lammin' big army, is in this territory, marchin' on Detroit, with old Tecumseh and his minions at his right. miles don't separate you from them this holy minute; it don't, for a fact."

"Can this be possible?" exclaimed the ma

jor, startled by the information.
"It's a fact, major; I war a prisoner in the camp of the British, night before last, and so I know of what I'm speakin'. Before captured, was an eavesdropper at an interview be ween General Brock and old Tecumseh, and heard 'em make their 'rangements. Oh, I tell you, major, it's goin' to be warm on the pen insula. They've gained admittance to the lakes with their boats, and, just a few nights ago, a party of us surprised and captured the little brig 'Scout,' with supplies for Brock' But then, major, this is not what I'm here for-in fact, I am not here for anything I'm on my way to Detroit with some documents of great interest to the American arms. "Ah, indeed! Is it possible that you are one of our spies?" asked Van Horne, in an un-

"I don't know what you'd call me, but I'm an American boy, and fightin' for yonder flag. You see, I captured, or rather played a sly trick on a British major t'other mornin', and got from him the paper I am now carrying to

General Hull. "Do you think it contains anything that would be of interest to me, Harry?"
"Not a doubt of it, major, for it is of interest to every loyal American; and I believe I'd

better let you see it." So saying, he pulled off his moccasin and with the point of his knife ripped a slit in the lining, from behind which he drew out a folded paper and handed it to Van Horne.

The major unfolded it, and with the assistance of Harry, the whole secret was unraveled. "Good heavens, Harry!" exclaimed the offi er, as soon as it had been examined, "that paper must be forwarded to Hull immediately without another hour's delay. It is of the most vital importance to the American army in the north-west. It is a key that will enable us to open the way to victory. It is the written plan of the English general's proposed campaign, and with this in our possession it will enable us to meet them, fully prepared. Yes, Harry, this must be forwarded at once. I will send a special messenger with it—an old ranger, who knows every foot of ground between here and Detroit, and who has the fleet est horse in the command. By noon he will

triotism and bravery in this matter shall not escape the notice of President Madison." Well, major, if this document is of so much value and importance as that, start your

deliver it at Detroit. But rest assured, Harry,

that your part in this heroic deed shall receive

full mention in my official report. Your pa-

man for the fort at once."

at the earliest moment possible.

"I'll do my best toward it, major," replied the old ranger, bowing himself out of the com-

mandant's presence.

In a few minutes he was mounted upon the fleetest horse in the command, and flying through the woods toward Detroit. (To be continued—commenced in No. 301.)

Sports and Pastimes.

BY HENRY CHADWICK.

THE NATIONAL GAME.

THE CENTENNIAL NINES. In the old time of 1776, balls flew fast and furious over the fields of the country; but the "regulation" balls of the period in question were leaden bullets, impelled from military muskets, and the scenes of the contests were bloody fields where death and carnage ruled supreme. In 1876 balls will be seen flying fast through the air again, and thousands will be gathered on the fields where the contests for victory will take place; but what a difference in the nature and character of the congum and leather, and they will fly from the ashen bats of athletic youths to the expectant palms of merry, active ball-players on the bright, green fields of peaceful, recreative ex-

The Centennial year will, of course, be one of notable events; but it promises to be one of special interest to the ball-playing fraternity, as there can be no doubt that more clubs will take part in the campaign of 1876, and a greater number of contests take place than ever before known in the history of the game. Base-ball is now fully established as the national game of America. Let its origin have been what it may, the game as now played is essentially an American game; and beyond all question it surpasses all other field sports in popularity on the American conti-nent. What cricket is to an Englishman baseball now is to an American, and the two games -so distinct in their features-are each representative of the peculiar characteristics of the two nationalities. The former game is for the leisure classes, as it requires a couple of days' play to complete a full match; while a ontest at base-ball between two first-class nines can be settled in two hours.

THE CENTENNIAL CLUBS.

The professional arena for 1876 promises to be the scene of a series of more evenly-contested matches for the championship pennant than ever before known in the brief history of the professional National Association. The breaking up of the invincible Boston team of 1875 and the transfer of four of their prominent players to Chicago, will undoubtedly have the effect of lessening the chances for success of the Boston club for 1876, and will proportionably strengthen that of the Chicago club. The other leading clubs, too, of the Centennial arena have materially improved their forces, so that there will not be such a onesided fight for the pennant during 1876 as there was last season, when the Boston club took a winning lead from the start, and maintained it to the close, marking their record with a series of victories unprecedented in number in

the creditable history of the club. This year the issue will be West vs. East more distinctly than ever before. In 1870 the Chicago club's main object was the defeat of the invincible Cincinnati Red Stockings, and they captured their Cincinnati adversaries in that year by two victories out of three games played. Since then it has been Chicago vs. Boston, until 1875, when a side issue was introduced by the *entree* of the St. Louis club as a rival for the championship of the West, held by Chicago since their victory over Cincinnati in 1870. This fight in 1875 ended in a together. This year the South, for the first time, sends in a representative team to compete for the professional championship, and what with this new element of interes and the rivalry for the championship of the West between Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati, in addition to the battle for supremacy between the West and the East, the coming campaign bids fair to be the most exciting that has taken place since the contests for the professional pennant were inaugu-

Glancing at the contending forces which are now ready to enter the arena for 1876, we

first review THE WESTERN CLUB TEAMS. which include the Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati clubs, the Louisville club being the Southern representative in the professional arena, and the first to enter the lists from the Southern States. We first take up the strongest team of the West, viz.:

THE CHICAGO CLUB

and the Centennial team for this club is as follows:

White, catcher, from Boston club; Peters, short-stop, of Chicago club; Spalding, pitcher from Boston club; Glenn, left field, of Chica go club; McVey, first baseman, from Boston club; Hines, center field, of Chicago club; Barnes, second baseman, from Boston club; Addy, right field, of Philadelphia club; Anson, third baseman, of Athletic club.

This is an especially strong team beyond question. The in-field, particularly, cannot well be surpassed. It includes the champion eatcher of 1875; the most intelligent skillful strategist of the pitching arena of last season; an excellent first baseman and change pitcher; an unrivaled second baseman, and a first-class man at third base, with a quick, active, earnest, hard-working player for short In the out-field they have also a strong trio, though not quite of the high mark of their The whole question of their success as a team this season depends not so much on the individual strength in playing skill which they have collected together, as on the likelihood of their being worked up to the point of thorough harmony as a team. Spalding will be manager and captain, and if he can com-mand obedience to his behests, good work will be done; but if not half the advantage to be derived from the playing strength of the team will be lost. The new nine will have to run the gantlet of the press comments of the Chicago papers, which hitherto have been characterized by fulsome praise in success and gross abuse in defeat, this having proved the most demoralizing element the Chicago nines of the past three years have had to contend with. It all arises from the fact that the writers on base-ball in Chicago have always been more or less concerned in bets or pools" on the games they have had to report, and when this is the case, impartial criticism is out of the question. There is no lack The major summoned one Lieutenant Strahl, of ability, or of a desire to be fair, no doubt, oughly reliable play.

but when a man has lost his bet or his pool on the local nine he does not exactly feel in the mood to do them justice, and when he has won he is equally blind to their faults.

Next to the Chicago nine comes the team of their rivals of St. Louis.

THE ST. LOUIS CLUB. Last season this club had a strong corps of players, but they were not well managed, and the result was a partial failure, for though they were not whipped by Chicago they did not win the Western championship, and only reached fourth position in the race for the pennant. This year does not promise much better results, if we are to judge of the matter by some of the selections made for their Centennial team. As selected the team for 1876

will be as follows: Clapp, catcher, from Athletic club; Pearce, short-stop, of St. Louis; Bradley, pitcher, of St. Louis; Cuthbert, left field, of St. Louis; Dehlman, first baseman, of St. Louis; Pike, center field, of St. Louis; Batten, second baseman, of St. Louis; Mack, right field, of Philadelphia; Miller, third baseman, of St. Louis;

Blong, assistant, of Star.

It is said also that McGeary, of the Philadelphia club, has been selected as one of the nine. If this is so, then a lack of judgment has been shown, to say the least, in view of flicts. In 1876 the balls will be composed of gum and leather, and they will fly from the conduct while in the Philadelphia psine of 1875. It is worse than folly to take in players into a nine — intended to be run on thoroughly straight principles—whose course has been one marked by alleged "crookedness," or who labor under the ban of suspicion. It has a demoralizing effect upon the nine, apart from anything else. For this reason the St. Louis club will not be as strong as it would other-wise have been but for the selection of an expelled player in the person of Blong, and a "marked man"—so the Philadelphia papers ay-in the person of McGeary. The latter is a fine player, beyond doubt, a good catcher and excellent short-stop. But what of that, if he is not to be relied upon to play his best?

The other Western club team is that of THE CINCINNATI CLUB.

Of this team we cannot say much, as most of the men are new to us. But Mr. Joyce seems to be content with his choice, and as he went in to get a team equal to the old nine of the Reds of 1869, and thinks he has just as strong a nine, we have nothing further to say

than to name his choice, which is as follows: Pierson, catcher, from the Star club (of Newark); Kessler, short-stop, from Atlantic club; Fisher, pitcher, from Philadelphia club; Sunden, left field, from Cincinnati club; Gould, first baseman, from New Haven club; Field, center field, from Cincinnati club; Sweasy, second baseman, from Atlantic club; Jones, right field, from Cincinnati club; Clack, third baseman, from Atlantic club; Wandell, assis-

tant, from the Resolute club.

This team will be likely to be third on the list of Western nines at the close of 1876, and of course further in the rear than that in the race for the pennant.

We now come to the representative professional nine of the South, and here we find a strong team, and one likely to be under very able management; we refer to

THE LOUISVILLE CLUB. The progress of this nine will be watched with interest by all the Southern base ball fraternity, and should they conclude to take a trip South this winter with the Chicago team, the latter will find the Louisville nine monopolizing all the sympathy of the Southern assemblages. Of course the Louisville nine will strive to defeat their rivals of St. Louis and Chicago, but their main object will be to "go for the Eastern nines," with a view of winning a good position in the pennant race. For this object they have selected a very strong nine for the club, as the appended list of names

will show: Snyder, catcher, from Philadelphia club; Fulmer, short stop, from Philadelphia club; drawn battle, each winning five games of the ten regular championship contests they played left field, from New Haven club; Carbine, first left field, from New Haven club: Carbine, first baseman, from Western club; Hastings, center field, from Chicago club; Gerhardt, baseman, from Mutual club; Bechtel, right ield, from Philadelphia club; Hague, third baseman, from St. Louis club; Allison, assistant, from Hartford club. Chapman is manager, and Fulmer captain of the nine.

A recent meeting of the Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati and Louisville clubs, held at Louis ville, resulted in a unity of action looking to a reform in professional play, which, it is to be hoped, will be felt at the next Convention. We now come to such of the Eastern clubs

as now stand ready to enter upon the campaign of 1876, and they are the Boston, Hartford and New Haven clubs. The nines of the are as follows, exclusive of those of the Athletic, Mutual, and Philadelphia clubs, which

have not as yet been completed. The Boston team includes McGinley, catcher, from New Haven club; G. Wright, short-stop, of Boston club; Borden, pitcher, of Philadelphia club; Leonard, left field, of Boston club; Murnan, first baseman, of Philadelphia club; O'Rourke, enter field, of Boston club; Beals, second baseman, of Boston club; Manning, right field, f Boston club; Schafer, third baseman, of Boston club; Whitney, assistant, of Lowell club. Harry Wright will no doubt make this team a troublesome one to defeat, but he is not going to walk over the course as he did in

The nine of the Hartford club is the same as that of last year, and if the same clique business in opposition to the captain is indulged in, it will not be more successful than it was last It will be as follows:

D. Allison, catcher, of Hartford club; Carey, short-stop, of Hartford club; Bond, pitcher, of club; York, left field, of Hartford club; Mills, first baseman, of Hartford club; Remsen, center field, of Hartford club; Burdock, second baseman, of Hartford club; Cummings, right field, of Hartford club; Ferguson, third baseman, of Hartford club; Harbedge, assistant, of Hartford club.

The New Haven team will be as follows: Seward, catcher, from St. Louis club; Sam Wright, short-stop, of New Haven club; Nichols, pitcher, of New Haven club; Pabor, left field, of Atlantic club; Waitt, center field, of St. Louis club: Somerville, second baseman, of Centennial club; Heifort, right field, of Boston club; Spence, third baseman, from Canada club; Knowdell, assistant, of Atlantic club.

The Athletic club have thus far engaged Knight, Fisler, Reach, Sutton, and Eggler. The Mutuals have secured Hicks, Mathews, Hart, Nichols, Hallinan, Booth, Boyd, and Holdsworth. The Philadelphias The Philadelphias will have a new team, probably, but to be consistent with their policy of 1875, they ought to secure Zettlein, Treacy, McGeary, McMullin, and Malone, of their last year's team and add to them Higham, Hatfield, Nelson, and others of that special class of men unknown to suspicion and with clear records for thor-

SOME FEET.

BY JOE JOT, JR.

His feet they were so very large
That any one 'twould beat
To tell if the feet belonged to the man
Or the man belonged to the feet.
To make his shoes it always took An endless amount of stock; And he couldn't get them repaired unless He took them down to the dock.

He was far more firmly set on earth Than any man in town; And his foes all said it was imposs-Ible to knock him down.

People would look at them and say,
With many laughing peals.
They never saw anything half so big
That didn't go on wheels.

Such large live things of course would have A will of their own so strong, Whenever they took a notion to go They'd go and take him along. 'Tis said, although the man was short, That when he laid in bed The blankets were not long enough To cover his feet and his head.

And when he started for any place,
Though manfully he did strive,
His toes would be there some minutes before His body could arrive. And when this man would go by rail
To take a journey afar,
He'd sit behind on the last coach
With his feet on a platform car.

His feet took up so much of the streets The citizens, fearful of harm, Held an indignation meeting at last, And advised him to move on a farm. A singular thing about it was, And nevertheless quite true, That the more those feet developed The smaller that man grew. At last that man gave up the ghost, And here was the strangest freak, Although he laid there dead and cold, His feet didn't die for a week!

And while they made his grave quite deep, Two yards, or thereabout, They saw with dismay that after all His shoes at the top stuck out.

So to keep his memory green, As Time on its journey rolls. And to save the price of a marble slab They chalked his name on the soles.

Darrel's Reward.

BY MARY REED CROWELL.

"It's very annoying, to say the least. I am sure I do not see how it could have happened." Mrs. Pontifix arched her handsome black eyebrows, and laid an arm around the shoulder of her son Darrel, a stylishly-dressed, imperious-faced boy of ten years, as if to ward off of his precious, exclusive person, any evil effects that might arise from the persons whose presence Mrs. Pontifix had expressed herself as

being so "very annoying."

Darrel looked contemptuously at the two intruders into the sacred precincts of the inclosed grounds at Mildred Lawn.

"Mamma, I am sure they are thieves. They are gipsies, aren't they, and gipsies are always Mrs. Pontifix straightened her elegant, portly

figure, haughtily.
"We don't want anything of you. Leave

the grounds at once."

The elder of the two, a tall, gaunt girl of Darrel's age, dropped a courtesy.

"We have come far, and have no money or food. Let me play, and Giulia will dance, and

we will get a penny to buy bread."
"I tell you to leave the grounds at once, unless you wish to be put out. Darrel, my darling, do not go near them. They are not fit to be near decent people."

The smaller girl suddenly stopped in her dance, her great, solemn eyes, looking out from her dirty face straight into Darrel Pontifix's aristocratic countenance. "Please—a penny—only a—"

Her low, timid voice was drowned by the gruff tones of the gardener, who had heard the twanging guitar from his greenhouses.
"Clear out of this, you pair of nuisances! daughter. I will go, before you leave this

But the boy's high tenor voice effectually overrid the man's. "Mamma! didn't I tell you they were

thieves? See there—see what she's got—my silver buckle! I saw her watching a chance to The gardener caught little Giulia's slender

arm. "Come, now, drop it! don't let me catch

you here again, either!" And, kind-hearted at bottom, Jinnison would have let them go, but Mrs. Pontifix angrily re-

The idea of the little wretches daring to steal under our very eyes! Darrel, go to the office and tell your papa to bring a policeman here at once and arrest them. It will be a mercy to lock them up.

Giulia's dark face blanched with fear and

rage.
"I not steal it! I not know it on the grass till I tread on it! I not steal anything!"

Mrs. Pontifix sneered insolently, and Darrel stopped to laugh maliciously before he sped off to the "office."

"Giulia never steals, lady; don't lock us up-see, you have your silver-we will go and never come again.'

The elder girl took the smaller one's hand protectingly, and slung her battered guitar over her shoulder. "Jinnison, they are not to go. I shall have

them arrested as vagrants and thieves."

And five minutes later a strong, blue-coated policeman detailed for special duty at the magnificent country seat of Jeffrey Pontifix. was dragging the children rudely along. One, the elder, with compressed lips and flashing eyes, the other, little Giulia, crying and resisting with every tread of her little bare feet on the dusty road.

And Mrs. Pontifix and Darrel, in his elegant costume of navy-blue velvet and solid pearl buttons, watched them away without a mis

"Will I do, think you, Antonia?"

A more bewitchingly piquant face was never lifted for commendation than was raised to the dark eyes of Antonia Vincenza-a face over which the radiant smiles dimpled in rapid, happy succession; a face full of light and from the magnificent eyes, black as polished ebony, with heavy, curling lashes, and brows that were an exquisite arch, to the small, rosy mouth, that seemed made more especially for a lover's kisses than aught else. Antonia looked frankly down in the girl's

"My darling, you are, as usual, past criti-It seems to me every new costume you wear is more brilliantly becoming than last, but to-night, Giulia, you are positively

A little, low laugh came rippling from the girl's scarlet lips. "You are almost as great a flatterer as Mr.

Darrel Pontifix, dear. He swears by me, I

A sudden dark cloud spread over Antonia's

face.
"I cannot bear to hear that name, Giulia. The remembrances of it, and all that followed, are as fresh to-day as fifteen years ago. The only mystery to me is how you became acquainted with that man, and why you encourage him as you do. You know he will never marry you, dear."

A frown black as her own eyes, then a burst

of sunshiny laughter from Giulia.

"You dear, good sister! Why don't you say I never will marry Mr. Darrel Pontifix? Wait and see—that's all; and now for fresh laurels to-night."

And Antonia watched the radiant face away, and turned with a long, bitter sigh to

A tiny, cctagon-shaped morning-room, hung with folds of rare rose-silk, toned down by cobwebs of lace; delicate rose-plush furniture that had been selected with especial regard to Mrs. Jeffrey Pontifix's brunette complexion; and Mrs. Jeffrey Pontifix herself, in elaborate breakfast-toilet, standing beside the small inlaid table in the center of the apartment, looking with grieved, half-indignant expression at the handsome, rather dissolute young gentleman lounging in a chair beside the open

fire.
"It is simply preposterous, Darrel," she was saying, energetically. "The idea of any one refusing to marry you—and particularly the girl who is nobody but a public singer! Why she may thank her luckiest stars you have so honored her. Refuse you, indeed!"

"Ridiculous or not, she has refused me, and she knows I just worship the very ground she walks on."

Mrs. Pontifix smoothed the soft, lustrous silk of her dress. "Girls often refuse the first time, Darrel. Indeed, I think I refused your poor papa twice before I finally consented to— "Hang it, you don't know Giulia Vincenza mother, if you think she's that sort. I tell you, she's said she wouldn't have me, and she won't. Haven't I asked her, begged her, time and again? and can't I tell whether or not she's

flirting?" It was the remains of the same pleasant voice of fifteen years ago, and Darrel Pontifix was just the looking man at twenty-five that ten gave the promise of-excepting the marks of dissipation that late years had indelibly written on his bold, fair, handsome face—so unlike his mother's—so utterly unlike Giulia Vincenza's, the witching Italian songstress who

had made him her hopeless captive.
"Very well, then, Darrel, if you think you know more and better than I do. However, if you propose to let this Miss Vincenza give you the mitten—why—I presume you will take it quietly."

He muttered something that Mrs. Pontifix did not hear; then looked in her face with an expression she knew meant even more than his emphatic answer said:

'If you call it taking it 'quietly' to go off omewhere—the Lord only knows where—and never show my face here again—if you call it quietly' for me to know my life is blasted, or love of Giulia Vincenza-all right. Assure as the sun shines I will never see you again, a home again, if she refuses me once more.

Mrs. Pontifix shivered with pain and fright. This darling of hers, for whom she lived, on whom all her hopes were centered—Darrel to leave her! Darrel to blight her life, even as this dark-eyed, heartless beauty would blight Her voice quivered when she spoke to him

"She shall make you happy—make me happy. I will go to her, Darrel, and plead our case, shall I? I will tell her how you love her, how other women have tried in vain to win you and your great wealth, how happy we were until she came to disturb us. I'll beg "Clear out of this, you pair of nuisances! daughter. I will go, before you leave this Out with you, 'nless you want the dogs on you! Master Darrel Pontifix—" daughter. I will go, before you leave this house. Wait for me until I come back with good news. She'll not refuse me, dear."

And the elegant Pontifix barouche, with its olive lining, its proud crest on the shining panels, its horses stepping so proudly, and cossing their heads until the gold-plated harness gleamed dazzlingly in the morning sunshine, drew up before the door of the Vincenzas' residence; and Mrs. Pontifix alighted, and went in, and waited in the elegant little reception-room till Miss Vincenza should ap-

Directly came a rustle of heavy silken drapery; then a faint odor of jasmine, then the most regally beautiful girl Mrs. Pontifix had ever seen, whose grand dignity of manner made even that lady just a little confused.

"I am Giulia Vincenza, and you wish to see me. You are Mr. Darrel Pontifix's mother, I presume?"

Such a sweet, rich voice it was, and Mrs. Pontifix began her strange errand at oncepleading as only a mother can plead, for what vas dearer than life.

The girl listened, gravely; then smiled, care

lessly. "
"Fifteen years ago, Mrs. Pontifix, when you thrust my sister and myself into jail, knowing we were as innocent as the rude boy who made the complaint, I vowed to have my revenge on you, or him. I think I have it

Then, it came to her like a lightning flash, and Mrs. Pontifix knew she had received her reward; and she went away, to tell her son she had failed, and why.

And Darrel kept his word, and Mrs. Ponti-

fix, a white-haired, lone widow, has not seen his face for years and years.

The Squire's Wooing.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

"I DECLARE, if there isn't Squire Doane coming up the path," exclaimed Mrs. Cross, as she looked out of the sitting room window, af-ter hearing the clicking of the gate-lock, which always warned them when visitors were coming. "And we aren't slicked up a bit. But he's coming on an errand, likely, and won't be apt to notice if things ain't just as they should be. He hasn't been over to see us in ever se long. He's growing old fast, Ruth, isn't he?

His hair's pretty white."

Mrs. Cross sighed softly, as she brushed a chair and straightened the tidy on the loungepillow. Years ago, before there was a hint of silver in Squire Doane's hair—when he was simply Stephen Doane, or oftener among the boys and girls-he had held a tender corner in her heart. Everybody said that Mary Cross and Stephen Doane would make a match. But it sometimes happens that what everybody says doesn't come true, and it happened so in this case. She had married first more to suit her parents, probably, than her-self. Then Stephen had married, and for twenty-five years they had lived within sight

of each other. Death had come to her and him. For ten years her husband had been sleeping in the old church-yard on the hill, and for half that time his wife had lain beneath

the same green grass and daisies.

"Yes, Squire Doane is growing old," answered Ruth. "He's fifty-five, isn't he? as much as that, I should think. Seems to me you told me once he was five years older than

"Yes, fifty-five or six," answered Mrs. Cross, just as his knock sounded at the door

and Ruth went to let him in. Mrs. Cross succeeded in getting the very faintest glimpse of herself in the glass while Ruth was at the door. It was a pleasant face that she saw in the old-fashioned mirror, with faint, late roses showing still in her cheeks and eyes that had never lost their early sun-There were silver threads among the shine. brown hair, banded smoothly back from the forehead, and some lines of care upon her brow But, she was fifty years old, she thought, and fifty years and a face in which they have left no traces one does not often find together. And then she wondered why she should think

anything about her looks. Squire Doane knew that she was growing old as well as she did.

"Good-afternoon, Mary"—it had always been Stephen and Mary between them—he said, as he came in. "I got lonesome, and the well I'd we in early debt while."

thought I'd run in and chat awhile."
"I'm glad you did," she said, cheerily, wheeling out the rocking-chair for him. 'What's the use of having neighbors if we ain't neighborly, as aunt Dorcas always says?"
The squire sat down, and Mrs. Cross drew a

chair up by the window, and busied herself over her knitting. Ruth sat down in the doorway and hulled the strawberries she had been gathering for tea. When that task was done, she took herself off to the kitchen, and the

squire and her mother were left alone.
"Ruth must be a sight of comfort to you," said the squire. "She's a smart, capable girl,

Mary."
"Yes," answered Mrs. Cross, with a proud smile. "Ruth's smart, if she is my daughter, and she's a good girl."
"She'll be getting married one of these

days," remarked the squire, thoughtfully.

"She'll make a good wife, Mary."

"Yes," answered Mrs. Cross, slowly. "I don't want to let her go, though I s'pose I'll have to, some time. I don't know what I should do 'thout her."

"It is lonesome living alone," said the

"It is lonesome living alone," said the squire, with a sigh. "Lucy's been dead five years next August, and though cousin Sibyl has been a good housekeeper, and kept everything up as well as any one could, I've seen a good many lonesome days. Mary—" with such suddenness that Mrs. Cross was half-startled—"I've been thinking of marrying again. Do you think 'twould be foolish?"
"Why, no. I can't say I do." she answered

"Why, no, I can't say I do," she answered, with a little brighter color coming into her cheeks, and something of the old thrill of

"I'm glad of that," said the squire, delightedly. "I'm glad you don't think so. I was afraid you might. You've known me ever since we were children, and I hope you've ot a good opinion of me. I hain't thought much about it until lately, but when Ruth come up after them peas t'other day, I got to thinking it over, and says I, she'll be marrying some one, 'fore long, and then—why then I kept on thinking about it, and Ruth'll make a good wife for anybody—and—I wish you'd think it over, Mary; you see, I hain't quite made up my mind yet, myself—and talk with Ruth about it, and see what *she* thinks."

The squire was quite flustered by this time. He began to feel really bashful again, and knew he was getting things mixed up fearfully. But he supposed she understood what he meant well enough. He noticed that she was pale, and seemed rather bewildered, but he laid it to the same emotion which made him stammer and grow red as any schoolboy asking a girl for the first time if "he might

see her home." The squire stayed to tea. He had got par tially over his embarrassment by tea-time. Perhaps, seeing how his announcement affected Mrs. Cross helped to compose him. She seemed flustered enough to do for both of them, he concluded, as she passed him cream twice and gave him two heaped-up saucers of strawberries

pefore he had eaten a single berry.
"I'll make up my mind soon," he said, when he went away. "I'll come over next week and talk with you, and you'd better talk with Ruth

She sat down with her knitting and her thoughts when he was gone. So he wanted to marry Ruth, did he? He wanted a young wife. Well, she couldn't blame him for wanting some one young and fair. Perhaps it was atural for him to. He must have forgotten the old days. Perhaps he had never cared as much for her as she had for him, and—men forget more easily than women, she thought. "What did Squire Doane want?" Ruth

asked, by-and-by.

"He wanted I should talk with you," her nother answered, with a curious little quiver in her voice. She was half angry with herself for her weakness. "He thinks of marrying

again, Ruth." "I declare!" exclaimed Ruth, in great sur-prise. "Who to, mother? You?"

The roses came back to Mrs. Cross' cheeks for a moment.
"No," she answered, with a choking feeling in her throat. It was hard to give up a love which, after all, had perhaps never been hers, to the child who had no need of it, and for

whom there was waiting other love more fitted to her youth. "He wants to marry you, "Me!" Ruth's face was one great exclamation point. "Me! You don't mean it, mother.

Why, he's older than my father was!"
"Yes, I know that," answered her mother.
"But he wanted me to talk with you about it." 'Why, I never thought of such a thing. It's ridiculous!" exclaimed Ruth. "I wouldn' marry him if I knew I'd be an old maid. You're sure you're not mistaken, mother?"

"Oh, yes," answered Mrs. Cross. "I'm sure you might do a great deal worse." "Yes, I suppose so," answered Ruth. "He's a good man, and all that, but he's so old. You can tell him that I shall have to decline the honor he proposes to do me. Marry Squire Doane! Dear me! I never heard of anything funny!" and Ruth laughed till she cried.

I am afraid some practical-minded, matterf-fact people who may read this will think Mrs. Cross a foolish woman to take it to heart so, when I tell them that she cried a few quiet ears that night. But she was a woman whose heart had never lost the fragrance of its youth, as a flower keeps some hint of summer hidden

Squire Doane came over again in a few days. Ruth d clared she wasn't going to stay at nome to be tormented by him. No knowing what he might do when he found out that she hadn't the faintest idea of becoming Mrs.

"Men can act so ridiculous, you know," she said. "You can tell him a good deal better than I can. Break the news gently to the

dear man, and say I don't believe in old men's darlings," and she went off laughing.

The squire was evidently somewhat ill at ease. He fidgeted about, and looked the family Bible through from beginning to end, read of the births, deaths and marriages, and took a careful inventory of the books on the mantel-shelf.

And she was about as nervous as he was She felt sorry for him. She was sure he would be disappointed. But he had no right to expect Ruth to look very favorably upon his

At last:
"Have you talked with Ruth?" burst out the squire.

"Yes, and she is opposed to it," answered Mrs. Cross, anxious to have the troublesome affair off her hands. "She says you are too

old."
"Too old!" The squire faced round in some astonishment.
"Why, I ain't only five years older than you are, am I?" "No," answered the widow, "but you're thirty-five years older than she is, you know."

"Well, what if I am? What's that got to do with it, I'd like to know? I ain't going to marry her, am I?" demanded the squire, much

"That's what you wanted to do, I supposed," answered Mrs. Cross. "At least that's what I understood you to mean." "Why, Mary, what a goose!" exclaimed the squire, laughing till he was red in the face. "Marry Ruth! Good Lord! I meant you!"

Back came all the vanished roses.

"I—I thought you meant her, Stephen," she id, shyly. "I understood you so." said, shyly. "Not a bit of it," answered the squire. want you. Can I have you."
"Yes, if you want me," she answered, and

then her face was like a bed of carnations, and then the squire kissed her as delightedly as if his years had been twenty-five instead of

Ruth stayed away till almost dark, to make sure of not seeing him. But when she came in there he was, and his chair was suspiciously

mear her mother's.

"Such a joke!" cried the squire. "Your mother's been trying to marry you and me, when I never thought of such a thing. I've explained the matter to her, and—and she says And her mother's face explained all the rest.
"That's more like it!" exclaimed Ruth, and
kissed them both. "I didn't believe you

wanted such a flighty thing as I am."
"But I know some one who does," cried the equire, chucking her under the chin in the exuberance of his spirits. "Charley 'll be home from school next year, and I-well, I guess you know more about it, maybe, than I do." And Ruth rather thought so, too.

A Tight Place.

BY FRANK H. CONVERSE.

"You may talk about your smart wim-in," said Captain Bob Hardy, as we sat min," round the open fireplace of that gentleman's comfortable cottage one evening last winter, "but there's one of the smartest"—said Captain Bob, indicating with his finger his pretty and blushing wife, who sat opposite—"as

there is a-going."
"Ah, Bob," said the lady, "now don't tell that story again;" but Captain Bob was obdurate, and to my great delight began:

"First voyage ever I made as officer was "First voyage ever I made as onicer was with her father, in the bark 'Osprey,' from Liverpool to the coast of Afriky, with rum and gunpowder—two things that's bad enough by themselves, but come to get 'em together"—and Captain Bob shook his head impressively,

unable to find a simile.
"Nellie had been with the old man ever ice she was seven years old, for her mother died when she was a baby, an' Captain Storer hadn't no particular home ashore, so Nell she took to salt water like a sea-gull.

"She was seventeen this voyage I'm speakin" of, an' she could jest handle that bark short/nin' sail, or tackin' ship—it didn't make no manner of difference—as well as the old man himself, an' as for takin' an observation,

she couldn't be beat.
"We had a kind of an ugly lot for a crew, mostly furriners, but men was scarce, an' we had to take what we could get that year.

"But, barrin' some little black looks, me an the mate got along with 'em well enough in the run down the channel, till we'd been out about two weeks, an' then they got pretty sassy, but we didn't know, then, that they'd managed to get down the fore-watch in the night and draw off a couple of jugs of this

'ere nigger rum—stronger than wild-fire.
"First thing out of the way that we see, I was settin' on the after house one Sunday, talkin' with Nell here; she was sewin' under a little awnin', when the ol' man called me beow a minute, to ask about the ship's reck'nin'

I came on deck jest in time to hear Nell tell the feller at the wheel that he was off his course, an' hear another chap, who was coilin' up ropes aft, mutter:

"Blast a woman as can't mind her own business;' an' then he looked over to her, an' sed somethin' so p'ison that I didn't make but two steps from the companion-way 'fore I took him 'tween the two eyes in a way that 'ston-

"But 'fore I know'd it, the man to the wheel grabbed a capstan bar, an' left the bark to steer herself, an' fetched me a lick on the back of the head-I remember of seein' the men runnin' aft, an' that's the last I did remember 'This powder that was aboard, had all been

stowed 'tween decks, and in fine weather we always took off the midships hatches to venti-late 'tween decks and let the sun down, so as to keep the powder dry, an' there the little casks was, piled clean up to the hatch combin's -a pretty ticklish sight, 'specially as with the heave of the sea an' all, some of the powder had sifted out 'tween the staves, an' laid all locse 'mongst the casks.

'As I was told afterward—for I don't s'pose she will tell it"—parenthesized Captain Bob, indicating his wife who smilingly shook her head in dissent-"when the feller left the wheel, the cap'n run out of the cabin and grabbed it, to keep the bark from broachin' to. The mate-Mr. Matherson-had been turned in, but hearin' the scrimmige, come out in his shirt an' drawers, jest in time to catch an iron belayin' pin, full an' by in the temple,

an' fell like an ox on the deck. "Well, what does Nell do, as the men come runnin' aft thinkin' they'd got charge of the bark—for it seems they had made up a week before to take her, a fellow by the name of Hartly, that had been pirate, an' I don't know what all, bein' ring-leader-but go down the after companionway, quicker'n a flash, an'

grabbin' the ol' man's revolver that hung over the desk in his state-room, she run through the for'ard cabin, out on deck, an' cockin' the revolver, she pointed it down the hatch where

"'Men! I'll give you while I count ten, to go for'ard!'—and then she began to count, 'one—two—three—four—five,' an' then stop-

ped a minit. "'For God's sake, Miss,' says Hartly, with his face as white as a sheet-for he see by her looks that she was in earnest-'stop! an' I'll take the men for'ard—I will, s'elp me'-an' the men, when they see her there, didn't wait for Hartly to lead 'em, but 'fore she began to count ag'in, they run like sheep, and got into the fo'c'stle.

"The steward was an old darky, and had hid in the pantry, but come out when he see the men runnin' an' unlashed the old man, (for they had tied him with the spanker sheet) who took the wheel, while they carried me into the cabin as dead an' unconscious as a log for an hour, but finally I come to, an' the first thing I saw, as I staggered out of the cabin door, was Nell still standin, as white as a sheet, by the hatch with the revolver-Mr. Matherson dead on the gratin'-an' the ol' man at the wheel as pale as a ghost, while the men was a-

whisperin' among themselves for'ard.
"Luckily I had a seven-shooter, and there vas a double-barreled gun in the cabin, which I gave to the captain, sending the steward to the wheel.

"The men had been drinkin' more an' more, an' was gettin' noisy, but still didn't darst to come aft, where we three held a council of

war.

"Finally, Nell says: 'I have a plan, which I think will work, if Mr. Hardy will help me,' and then in a few words told us her idea, which you'll see what it was further on.

"For we had no idea of trusting the men, if they promised never so faithful to return to duty, an' we knew, under the circumstances, that that would be the next move, an' we were right.

'Presently Hartly came aft and said: 'We'll give in beat, and we'll go back to our duty, if you'll take the girl away from that there powder, and if you'll promise to let us go clear directly the bark gets in. You've got the whip hand of us, for you've got shootin' irons, and we hain't' (which was true), 'an' if it hadn't been for the rum we wouldn't 'a' got into this here muss.'

Well, my fine fellows,' says the old man, 'I've got no confidence in your word, but you can go to your duty, an' the first look, even, I see from a man of you, I'll shoot him like a

dog. Now, go to your duty.'
"We closed up the hatches, laid poor Mr.
Mattherson out in his bunk, the wheel was relieved, and feeling that we were between two powder mines, so to speak, we waited.
"The weather was good, for we was in the tropics; that was a point in our favor, an' we only bided our time to carry out the little wo-

man's plan, which, for a woman, was the cutest thing you ever thought of.
"I watched my chance along in the first of the evening, as I walked the deck, my revolver in my breast, and it came sooner than I'd

"Hartly's turn came to take the wheel, and as he came swaggering aft, he cast such a de-vilish look out of his eye that I mistrusted him more and more.

"He stood a moment or two at the wheel, and then in a surly tone he says: 'The wheel ropes's too tight, they want slackin'.'
'''Slack 'em, then,' says the old man, short like, an' took the wheel, while Hartly, steppin' round behind, had jest stooped down to cut the lashin's, when I grabbed him, an' shovin' my hand over his mouth, pitched him

clear over the stern.
"It was all done in a minnit, and so quick he never suspicioned the leastest thing, 'cept that he bit my finger clean to the bone when he went over, and then the ol' man sung out:

"'Man overboard! Call the watch,' at the same time shovin' the helm hard down, an' singin' out to me to brace the main aback, have the mains'l hauled up, an' the head-sheets raised, which was done in a jiffey, an' by the time the other watch was on deck, the boat was ready to go over the side.

"'Jump in, there, five or six of you,' sung out the cap'n, an' Lord bless you, they never stopped to think whether it was best to or not, but they jest piled into the boat, six of 'em, an' pulled for dear life for Hartly, who was then about a quarter of a mile to lee'ard swimmin' and hollerin'.

"The moon was full, then, an' it was as bright as day, so that the boat wasn't a ship's ength off before the old man sung out to the three sailors that was left aboard "'Square that main yard! be lively about

givin' the wheel to the steward, givin' him the course at the same time, the way the ol' man put those three chaps through wasn't "'I've got the weather-gauge of you now, an' I mean to keep it,' says he, as they began to eat humble pie, an' I'm free to confess they

it, and then trim down the head-sheets,' and

had pretty lively times before we anchored at the mouth of the Gaboon river. "Oh, such a yell as they set up in the boat when they saw the ol' bark walkin' Spanish away from 'em! They picked Hartly up, an'

then the ol' man told the steward to heave the wheel up and run down to'ards em.
"They thought he was comin' to take 'em aboard again, for certain; but when he got

within speakin' distance he sings out: "'The first man that comes aboard, I'll shoot;' an' they stopped rowin' quick, I tell

you. "'You're in the track of ships, but I'll be more merciful to you than you would have been to me and mine, and give you a breaker of water and bag of hard tack,' and as he sheered the bark alongside their boat, he stood by the gangway, revolver in hand, as I tossed the bag and breaker to them, and wishing them a pleasant cruise, we stood away to the south'ard, leavin' them cussin' us till all was

blue.
"I heard afterward they was picked up in three days. We hadn't any trouble with the other chaps, you'd better believe. They laid it all to the rum and Hartly, but we kep' sharp watch of 'em, for all.
"Nell she stood watch with the rest of us,

an' that's where I began to first care for her, an' through bein' together so much she come to care for me.

"We had pretty good weather the whole passage, an' anchored in the mouth of the Gaboon just two weeks after the mutiny, an' there the three chaps took French leave, v saved us the trouble of handin' 'em over to the

"But, take it all round," said Captain Bob, it was a tight place to be in, eh, Nellie?" and the little woman who had listened to the story with various flushes of emotion visible upon her pretty face, nodded an emphatic affirmative as she answered:

"Yes, Bob; it was."